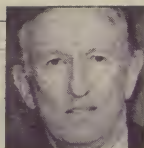


A record for 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'
Three to four lives ruined daily under failed military policy, according to report.
page 19

Switcheroo!
Jeffords's decision to bolt GOP hands Senate to Democrats.
page 20



Mink amok
Actress Mink Stole at Midnight Mass.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 23 • 7 June 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Bush nixes Gay Pride proclamation

by David Fraser

President George W. Bush, living down to expectations by not living up to campaign rhetoric on inclusiveness, has dissed Pride celebrations by ignoring them.

The president's spokesman, Scott McClellan, said last week that Bush would not proclaim Gay Pride Month for June. Nor would he sponsor any observance of the month's meaning.

Bush's stance contrasts with that of former President Bill Clinton, who issued Pride proclamations in recent years and encouraged his administration to sponsor speakers' forums.

Teddy Witherington, executive director of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee Inc., told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he had written the president and Vice President Dick Cheney in February. "We were encouraged by Bush's position on recognizing his campaign regarding diversity, and we offered them the same courtesy as we extended to his predecessor." He heard nothing until media reports of Bush's decision late last week.

"No one should be surprised," said Witherington, who is a transplant from Great Britain. "From my point of view, it seems it's the most American thing to say, 'Have a nice day.' This president is going down in history as the president who couldn't say, 'Have a nice day' to the gay community."

"Here," he added, "because of the religious right, the president feels boxed in. We all heard what he said in the campaign. He's chosen to ignore us, and by his decision he's belittling the rich culture that we have."

McClellan, Bush's spokesman, told the media: "The president believes every person should be treated with dignity and respect, but he does not believe in politicizing people's sexual orientation. That's a personal matter."

While some departments, including Transportation and Interior, are planning observances regardless, the White House told administration officials: "The executive office of the president will not sponsor an observance for Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. The executive office of the president will continue to observe, in some form or manner, the special emphasis programs that are traditionally recognized through the Affirmative Employment Program. Those programs recognize minorities and women that have been traditionally underrepresented in the work force."

By contrast, Witherington said, leaders like Jean Chrétien of Canada and Tony Blair of Britain have been very supportive of Pride.

"It depresses me when the president of my adoptive country is to be behind the times," Witherington said. "But there are going to be 15 million people around the world celebrating Pride, whether or not Bush wishes them to have a good time." ▼

SF marks 20 years of AIDS

by David Fraser

With the Rotunda of San Francisco City Hall strangely hushed, top officials and AIDS survivors marked the 20th anniversary of the epidemic on Tuesday, June 5, surrounded by memories of the dead.

Their messages were pointed or poignant, but two symbols of grief and hope blanketed them: the flags at half-mast outside City Hall, and the panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt carried or hanging inside.

"I like myself better for having treated you well. Love, hugs, and kisses too," said a message on a panel remembering potter Peter Van Roy (June 26, 1950-March 15, 1994). In the middle was a scene of blue water and reeds.

Hank Wilson, of Survive AIDS, urged an audience of about 80 circled around the Rotunda to remember the "Denver Principles," a document designed in 1983 to condemn attempts to label PWAs as victims and to help them die, and live, in dignity.

"They are as valid today as in 1983," Wilson said. "We PWAs - we have Ph.D.s ... I have a Ph.D. in life - I've been there."

Lawrence Ozoa, the mayor's liaison to the GBT community from the Office of Neighborhood Services, told the *Bay Area Reporter*: "I came out in the early 1990s. It was just a matter of weeks before my friends who were older seemed to be getting sick and dying. It's alarming to see it all over again."

"People forget what KS [Kaposi's sarcoma] looks like on your friend. People forget what it's like to see someone who's 170 pounds one week and the next week he's wasting ..."

"That cartoon in the B.A.R. - it's the truth."

[Last week's editorial page featured a cartoon by Ron Williams on 20 years of HIV/AIDS, with the caption "The most objectionable AIDS drug side effect: Memory Loss. Never Forget."]

Ark of Refuge

The Reverend Yvette Flunder from the Ark of Refuge sang a cappella "My Living Shall Not Be in Van." The hall stayed quiet for some time.

Standing next to Flunder and Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, Mayor Willie Brown told the audience about how the disease and the city had struggled to come to terms with each other.

Initially, he said, government was not very responsive to the mysterious ailment known at the outset as the "gay men's" disease.

page 23 ►



Stop AIDS Project's Steven Gibson has his body outlined in chalk Sunday at "die-in" demo.



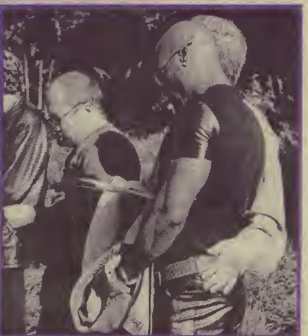
Evin Ollinger and his children look at the altar at MCC-SF while their mom Sarah Boxer looks on.



Mayor Willie Brown speaks in City Hall Tuesday with a panel from the AIDS quilt behind him.



Health Care Workers Union Local 250 are honored during a MCC-SF service Sunday.



Jeffrey Stanfield and his partner Bill Clark, right, at the AIDS grove's Sunday service.

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

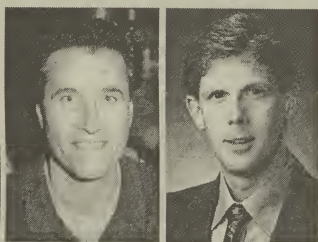
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Leno enters Assembly race

by Cynthia Laird

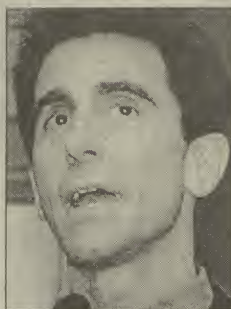
With a supportive crowd of between 250-300 people on hand, San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno on Saturday, June 2 kicked off his campaign for the 13th District Assembly seat at the Plumbers' Union Hall on Market Street.

Leno is running in the Democratic Party primary election that takes place next March. If successful, he will move on to the general election. The 13th District Assembly seat is currently held by Assemblywoman Carole Migden, who is being forced out due to term limits.

"It was very exciting to see all of the folks who were there," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Each and every one reflected the work this office has done over the last three years."

Leno was first appointed to the board in the spring of 1998 by Mayor Willie Brown. He won city-wide election in his own right that November. Last year, as the city switched back to district elections, Leno won the December runoff against Eileen Hansen and represents District 8, the Castro.

The supervisor said that since going on the board, he has worked



Supervisor Mark Leno

to build coalitions among groups that sometimes have conflicting positions on various issues.

"Whether the issue was saving the bay from further mercury pollution, protecting tenants from eviction, enforcing restrictions on illegal billboards, establishing our novel car sharing program, expanding the city's bicycle path network, or protecting small businesses, we have built inclusive and effective coalitions to achieve our goals," he stated.

Other issues Leno has championed include access to health services for transgender citizens, uni-

versal health care for children, and equal access to services for the Chinese and Hispanic communities. Leno has also worked with the Late Night Coalition around issues affecting nightclubs and spearheaded the medical cannabis identification program in place at the Department of Public Health.

At last Saturday's campaign event, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) introduced Leno. Others on hand included Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, former Supervisor Sue Bierman, former Ambassador James Hormel, and Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. On Monday, Leno said that he had picked up the endorsement of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Leno pointed out that in the next 20 years, California will undergo dramatic changes. The state's population is expected to grow from 33 million to 50 million, placing greater demands on energy, water, and agricultural resources. "Housing, transportation, education, and health care infrastructures will be challenged like never before," he said. "Sacramento will need experienced, accomplished, and creative leadership to address these issues." ▼

Migden seeks BOE seat

by Cynthia Laird

Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), who is barred from seeking re-election next year due to term limits, began her campaign for the 1st District seat on the state Board of Equalization last Thursday, May 31, at Citizen Cake Restaurant in San Francisco.

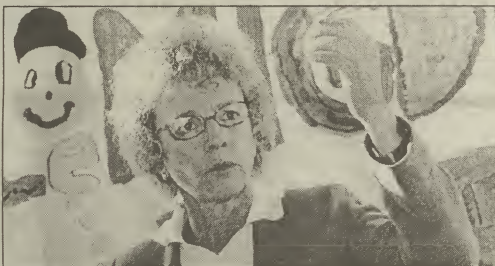
Migden reportedly raised \$150,000 at the event.

"This is probably the first time a Board of Equalization kickoff took place in a bakery," Migden quipped, referring to Citizen Cake's specialty.

The Board of Equalization is a constitutional office that deals with taxation policy for the state. The board is divided into four districts, with the fifth member being the state controller. Each district represents about 10 million people; District 1 covers most of Northern California. Johan Klehs, the current BOE member representing District 1, cannot run again because of term limits.

The election is next year.

Migden, who currently chairs the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee, said she has the fiscal background to do the job. "I want to make sure your tax dollars are spent well," she said.



Assemblywoman Carole Migden

If elected, she told the crowd last week, she would be the first woman and first lesbian elected by the people to the BOE.

While Migden said she enjoys her current job, she said she wants to continue public service.

Migden was first elected to the Assembly in 1996; before that she had been a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. While in the Assembly, Migden has had some success getting LGBT-related bills passed and signed by the governor, most notably her legislation a couple of years ago that established a statewide domestic partner registry for same-sex couples and seniors. This year, Migden hopes that her bill, AB25, passes out of

the Legislature; that bill would extend basic protections to same-sex and senior couples who register as domestic partners to include estate planning, employment-related, and health care benefits that spouses currently enjoy.

There were many supporters on hand last week, including Supervisor Mark Leno and former Supervisor Harry Britt. The men — who both have close ties to Migden — have recently announced they are seeking to replace Migden in the Assembly. Leno kicked off his campaign last Saturday [see story above], while Britt told the *San Francisco Chronicle* this week that he is definitely running. Also this week, Migden said she will support Britt over Leno. ▼

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Club Universe's 911 policies revealed in wrongful death lawsuit

by Ed Walsh

Potentially damaging evidence is surfacing against San Francisco's largest gay nightclub, Club Townsend, in court papers recently filed in a wrongful death lawsuit against it.

The suit was brought by Parmalee Goring, the mother of Jeffrey Goring, a 35-year-old San Jose man who collapsed and died of a heart attack at the club's Saturday night venue, Club Universe, last year. The complaint alleges there was a life-threatening delay in calling 911 out of concern that too many emergency calls could jeopardize the club's license.

Some of the strongest evidence and allegations in the more than two-inch court file in the suit includes the following:

- Former club manager, Jon Morris, and a club security officer, Richard Maloney, said in depositions that the club had a policy at the time of Goring's death of requiring employees not to call 911 under any circumstances without authorization of a manager. Morris no longer works at the club but Maloney still does and testified that the policy remains in effect. According to the deposition transcripts, Maloney cried when he was repeatedly questioned why he disregarded his CPR training to immediately call 911 when someone has collapsed and is not breathing.

- A physician witness who was at Goring's side just after he collapsed said in deposition that he asked a club security guard to call 911 immediately and assumed the call was made but only learned later that his request was ignored.

- Both the doctor and Maloney said in depositions that about 15 minutes elapsed from the time Goring collapsed until 911 was called.



Jeffrey Goring

where Goring was taken by using a cell phone he was carrying. But in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* last year, Joseph said a delay in calling 911 was understandable, in part, because the closest phone was in the office, in the front of the building.

- Witnesses say that Goring briefly regained consciousness and opened his eyes shortly after he collapsed. Jim Goodfellow, Mrs. Goring's lawyer, could use this to bolster his claim that Goring's life may have been saved if medical assistance was promptly summoned.

Goodfellow contends in the suit that Joseph should be considered a de facto owner of the club and shouldn't be allowed to hide behind a corporate veil. Goodfellow contends that Joseph ran the club with an iron fist. In his deposition with Morris, the former manager said that Joseph established club policies, including security, and had the ultimate authority of hiring and firing employees. In a court hearing scheduled for today (Thursday, June 7), Goodfellow will try to get a judge to rule that Joseph violated the "corporate form" by running the club as sole proprietor. If the judge agrees, Goodfellow would be allowed to name Joseph in the suit, allowing him to go after her assets as well as those of the corporation.

On Tuesday, June 5, Joseph told the B.A.R. that she was not at the club on the night of the incident involving Goring.

Aside from the lawsuit, the B.A.R. has learned Joseph faces other potential legal problems. She is the focus of an investigation by the state Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) for her request to transfer stock ownership in light of her criminal background.

Joseph is a convicted felon. According to federal court records, she has been convicted of three crimes over the past 30 years. In 1975, at the age of 26, she was convicted of drug dealing after selling undercover Drug Enforcement Administration agents several ounces of cocaine. In 1986, she was convicted of drunk driving, and in 1997, she was found guilty of money laundering.

ABC agent Andrew Gomez told the B.A.R. that he is investigating Joseph's 1997 crime in connection with an application she submitted last Thursday, May 31. Gomez said that Joseph is trying to get 80 percent of the Token Diva stock transferred back to her from a trust she set up in 1997. Gomez said he suspects she shifted her shares to a trust in 1997 to

shield it from a fine she anticipated as a result of the involvement in the money laundering scheme. Gomez said his office is investigating whether the crime can be considered "moral turpitude" and would warrant revoking her license to sell alcohol. Gomez said he wasn't aware of Joseph's drug and drunk driving convictions but said that they may not be grounds for denying her a license because they happened so long ago.

1997 case

The 1997 crime involved Joseph's friend and former employee, Jerry Coletti. Coletti filed phony tax returns using the names of people he knew who were HIV-positive, and in at least one case, the name of a person who died of AIDS. Coletti had the tax refund checks sent to a post office box and deposited them into Joseph's account. Joseph took a cut and paid off Coletti with checks that she disguised as business expenses.

Joseph said she didn't realize she was doing anything wrong until she came across a check from someone she knew had died of AIDS. She said she confronted Coletti about it but decided to continue to participate in the scheme after Coletti assured her that the money was being used to help people with AIDS. In the case of the man who had died, she said Coletti promised her the money would go to the man's loved ones.

Joseph could have been sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined \$250,000 but as part of a plea bargain she was given five years probation and was required to pay \$20,104.90 in restitution. She was allowed to work the amount off by holding charitable events in her club. Prosecutors agreed to go easy on her, in part, because she agreed to testify against Coletti.

At the time of sentencing in October 1997, her attorney claimed Joseph couldn't afford to pay a fine. According to Gomez, Joseph's stock in Token Diva was transferred out of her direct control and into a trust in January of that year. In 1999, Joseph's lawyer persuaded a judge to declare an early end to her probation because of her exemplary behavior.

Attorneys respond

Besides the ABC permit, Joseph was required to take out a permit from the San Francisco Police Department before she could open the business. According to police records, she applied for a permit to operate the club in 1993 but the box where it asked whether she was convicted of any crimes was left blank. When she reapplied for the permit in 1994 after her business partner died, the cocaine conviction was listed. No explanation was indicated in the file about why she didn't mention it the first time.

San Francisco Police Officer Rose Meyer, who oversees the club permitting process, told the B.A.R. that the department considers each application on a case-

page 13 ►

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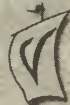
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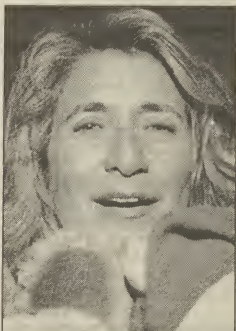
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Audrey Joseph at a 1997 benefit.

•• Audrey Joseph, the club's events manager, and majority shareholder of the Token Diva Corporation, which owns Club Townsend, impressed on employees that the club's license would be in jeopardy if 911 was called too often, according to a deposition from Morris. The former manager said that his understanding was that four or five times a month would be considered too often.

• The suit alleges that a security supervisor had the ability to call 911 from the back of the club

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San Jose Pride this weekend

by Katie Szymanski

It's no mob of half a million people, but then again, that's the point. For South Bay residents and others in the vicinity, the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration and Parade offers what San Francisco cannot: a manageable crowd, an event that still takes guts to attend, and a celebration that remains fairly local in nature.

San Jose Gay Pride launches with a few affiliated bar parties this week and the official "Community Day" on Saturday, June 9. Community Day runs from noon to 6 p.m. and includes vendor and nonprofit booths; local entertainment like Pro Latin Danca, Mr. and Mrs. Gay South Bay, and the Foxtail Drag Show; and recreation such as open volleyball games and an early morning "fun run." Community Day is free of charge and held in Discovery Meadow, at San

Carlos and Woz Way, in downtown San Jose.

On Sunday, June 10 is the annual Pride Parade, which starts at 10 a.m. Those participating are asked to assemble at the Victory parking lot on Market Street between St. James and St. John. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The parade will head down Market Street between St. John and West San Carlos; the route is easily accessible by Highway 101 and driving directions are available online.

Comedian/performer Judy Tenuta will serve as this year's "parade goddess." Tenuta, known for her demented character who wails along to the accordion and believes she is the "most famous person who ever lived," has been a gay icon since her debut in the 1980s.

Following the parade, at 11 a.m., is the Pride festival, a multi-venue yard party at Discovery Meadow.

Drag diva RuPaul is among the

many performers at the festival's Pride Stage; the stage also features circuit party star Amber; country western rockers Patsy Cline and the Memphis G Spots; The Julio Bravo Salsa Band; San Francisco's all-girl country band The Wild Angels; Cheer San Francisco; and the Silicon Valley Gay Mens' Chorus.

Also at the festival is an outdoor dance area featuring some of the area's hottest deejays, a country western area, arts and crafts vendors, and "Leather Alley," a place for fetish wear and exhibition. Tickets to the festival are \$10 at the gate or \$8 with advance purchase.

The San Jose Gay Pride Celebration and Parade attracted 15,000 people last year and is expected to draw similar crowds this year. At press time, vendor booth space was still available; call (831) 338-2578 to reserve. For general information on the celebration, advance tickets, and this week's parties, visit www.sjgaypride.com. ▼

Head up the river for Sonoma County Pride

by Katie Szymanski

Whether you're the camping and canoeing type or simply enjoy your community away from the city, organizers of the Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration encourage you to head north this weekend and enjoy what promises to be the biggest and best Russian River Pride yet.

For the first time, the city of Santa Rosa will be sponsoring a contingent in the Sonoma County Pride Parade. Organized by Sergeant Ernesto Olivares of the Santa Rosa Police Department, city

employees will march together with friends, family members, and supporters, not to mention a caravan of city vehicles including a fire engine, police car, and parks and recreation truck. The Pride Parade - which includes the participation of dykes riding motorcycles, various floats, community groups, and politicians - takes place at noon on Sunday, June 10 in downtown Santa Rosa on Mendocino Avenue from First Street to the Santa Rosa Junior College campus.

Pride includes much more than the parade itself; parties in Guerneville bars, a display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the college, and a salsa dance event at

Rohnert Park are just a few of the many additional offerings beginning this week and lasting through the weekend. Additionally, a festival at the college campus will directly follow the parade; featured attractions include performances on the entertainment stage, a bingo game by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, vendors, martial arts demonstrations, and more.

Volunteers are still needed for all aspects of the event, and space is still available for booths and parade contingents. Call (707) 524-9830 or visit www.sonomapride.com for more information on getting involved and for a complete schedule of the weekend's activities. ▼

Gender non-discrimination bill passed

by Katie Szymanski

AB1649 is one step closer to passage; the important bill expands protections under the Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on a person's gender, defined as a person's actual sex or perceived identity, appearance, or behavior regardless of the characteristics associated with the person's birth sex. In simpler terms, transgenders and other gender variant individuals like butch lesbians and straight women who hate makeup - despite what may be socially expected of them because of what's between their legs - may soon have the same rights as other people when it comes to being hired, fired, and housed.

AB1649, by openly lesbian Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Lo Angeles), passed the state As-

sembly last Thursday, May 31 with a vote of 41-31. All "ayes" were from Democrats, and 27 Republicans voted against what could be life-saving legislation. The bill now goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it needs to be approved by July 13. A similar bill last year passed the Assembly but was stalled in the Senate; however, this year the Judiciary Committee includes openly lesbian state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), and gender-savvy Senators Martha Escutia (D-Whittier) and Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto).

"We're hoping that this is the year," said Eric Astacaan, legislative advocate for California Alliance for Pride and Equality, who added that it will be necessary to lobby other members of the Judiciary Committee like Steve Peace (D-El Cajon), who abstained from the vote last year, and Jack O'Connell (D-San Luis Obispo). Four votes are needed for the bill to

leave the committee and continue on its way through the Senate.

As it stands, transgenders, "effeminate" men, and "masculine" women can still be evicted and lose their jobs legally based on superficial characteristics; sexual orientation protections do nothing for LGBT and heterosexual people who present anything other than what is stereotypically associated with their biological sex. This systemic problem is perhaps most noticed in the transgender population, a group of people who still are considered not worthy of hire by many employers. No job often means no home, which can translate to various health concerns, as well as abuse at the hands of law enforcement.

"These are real problems that real people have to deal with every day," said Astacaan. "I don't know how to put it any other way when we talk to elected officials. It's very important legislation." ▼

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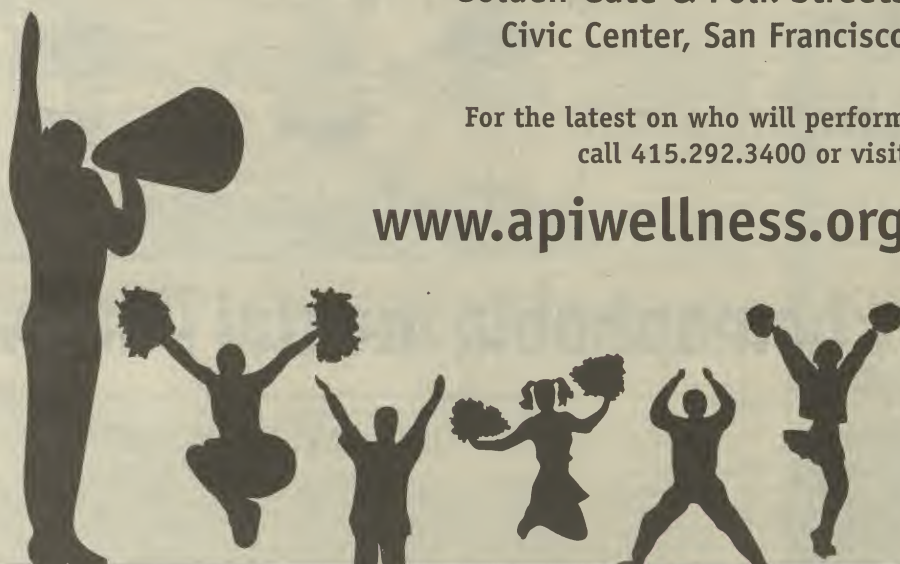
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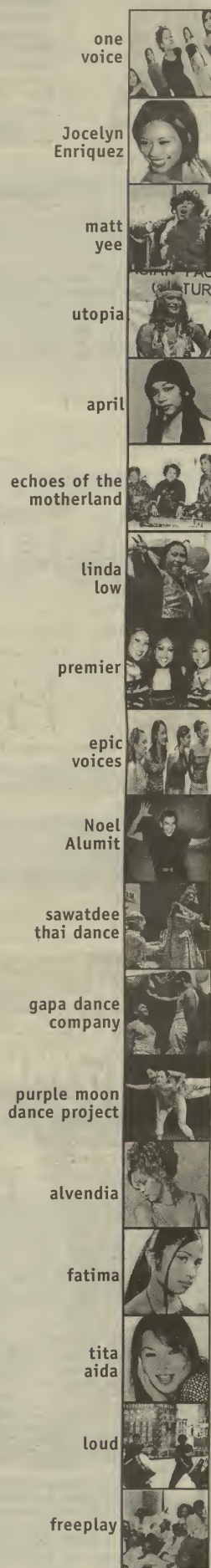
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United Press International**Bay Area Reporter**395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
http://www.ebar.com**News Editor** • barpaper@aol.com**Arts Editor** • bararts@aol.com**Advertising** • baradv@aol.com

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OPEN FORUM

A new Senate, a new day

It became official yesterday. Senator Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) took over as Senate majority leader as Democrats assumed control of the upper house of Congress for the first time since 1995. Historically, this week was the first time that the balance of power was changed because of a party switch instead of an election. As most know by now, Vermont Senator James Jeffords left the Republican Party last month and became an Independent; because he is voting with Democrats on organizational matters, that gives the Dems a 51-49 edge (the makeup of the Senate is now 50-49-1).

While Republicans have been trying to put the best spin possible on the situation, we can't help but notice that in just five months, President Bush has seen his party lose control of part of the legislative branch — and this wasn't due to the death of a senator or an election, it was due to hardball tactics, a move party leaders such as Senator Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) and Bush adviser Karl Rove badly miscalculated. Immediately after Jeffords's defection, there was plenty of finger pointing among Republicans; some blamed the White House, others blamed the Senate leadership for losing Jeffords. In fact, blame probably rests with both.

With the leadership switch, the changes will be more than just cosmetic, though some senators will move into more spacious offices and acquire larger staffs. Significantly, Democrats will chair Senate committees and be able to set the agenda in terms of what legislation is heard, what congressional hearings are held, and what presidential nominees move forward. While Daschle has said wisely that he intends to be bipartisan, he and new Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) have made it clear that when it comes to judicial nominees, the White House had better not send

over people who are right wing hard-liners.

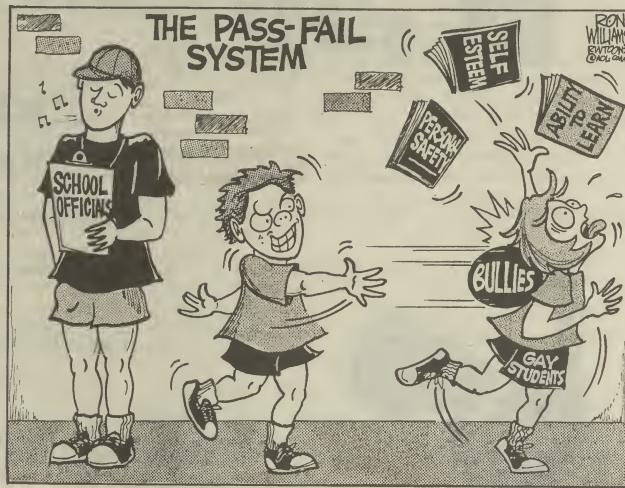
The new Senate also means that some of Bush's proposals, like his environmental and energy policies, will be subject to rigorous debate; indeed, it is now virtually assured that the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge will not be drilled for oil. Another initiative, the obscenely costly missile defense system, is likely now on the back burner. Who will pay for it, especially with the huge tax cut that Bush wanted and got — pretty much intact — from Congress?

The LGBT community should welcome the change in Senate leadership. It means that proposals to bring about equal rights might actually get a hearing, rather than be held up in committee or never heard at all, as was Lott's custom. Appointments to the federal bench will be closely scrutinized, sending the president a message that he must steer to the center.

More importantly, the new Senate will force Bush to move toward the center. And given how Bush started his presidency in the far right hand lane, any shift to the middle is welcome news. ▼



Editorial



Is homophobia mental illness?

by Victoria A. Brownworth

On May 30 ABC's *Nightline* aired a provocative discussion on racism. The focus of the piece was the petition by Dr. Alvin Poussaint, African American scholar, professor of psychiatry and dean of students at Harvard Medical School, to classify extreme racism as a mental illness. Poussaint wants the American Psychiatric Association to amend its *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Psychiatric Disorders* (commonly referred to as the DSM) to include racism among delusional disorders.

Poussaint's idea isn't new. African-American psychiatrists petitioned similarly in the early 1960s when the black civil rights movement engendered violent backlash among racists, including firebombings, lynchings, and other murders. The request at that time was denied.

Now, because Poussaint is a leader in his field and also a specialist on the role of violence in society from the spanking of children to the impact of black-on-black violence in urban America, the request is being reconsidered.

In an opinion piece in the *New York Times* on August 26, 1999, Poussaint first delineated his theory — that there are degrees of racism from the very mild to the very extreme. The latter cases, he posited, were indicative of delusional disorder — that is, if a person actually believed blacks or Jews were the cause of that person's problems, or the problems of white people generally, that absolutely met the criteria for delusion.

Poussaint detailed a series of racist acts of violence that had occurred recently — notably the dragging/dismemberment murder of James Byrd in Texas and the attack by Buford Furrow on a Jewish daycare center in Los Angeles — as examples of such delusion.

On Poussaint's scale of delusional progression a person first declares verbal expression of antagonism, then avoidance of members of disliked groups, then actively discriminates against them, then attacks members of those groups physically, then

"exterminates" those persons by means of lynchings, massacres, and genocide. Noted Poussaint in his opinion piece, "The fifth point is readily classifiable as a mental disorder."

In the FBI tapes at the recent trial for the Alabama church bombing in 1964 in which four young black girls were killed and several others maimed and blinded, one certainly hears exactly what Poussaint asserts.

One also hears it in the testimony in the Brandon Teena and Matthew Shepard murder trials. Which begs the question: Is extreme homophobia, which meets similar criteria to that posited by Poussaint, also a mental illness?

The case for such a claim is strong. So strong, in fact, that one wonders why no queer psychiatrist has made it.

Though Poussaint's argument seems flawless — logical, it has caused tremendous controversy in the African American and psychiatric — and legal — communities.

Some African Americans assert that declaring extremes of racism a mental disorder lets perpetrators off the hook and in the case of criminal actions, such as murder, allows the perpetrators to claim insanity. It is easy to see where queer activists would take a similar view given recent defense claims of "homosexual panic" as excuse for murder.

But Poussaint is unyielding. His 30 years of writing and research on children, racism, and violence all lead inexorably to this point: By declaring such behavior "abnormal" and symptomatic of a psychological disturbance requiring treatment including therapy, medication, and even incarceration in a mental institution, it removes any suggestion of acceptability from such behavior. In short it sends a societal message that extreme racism is as pathological and dangerous as untreated schizophrenia or other severe types of mental illness. It renders such behavior socially intolerable and as a consequence, would limit it.

The progression of racist behavior as Poussaint delineates it also suggests a deter-

rent plan. "Warning signs" would demand attention. Poussaint believes strongly that defining racism in this way will lead to a diminishment of racial violence and a broadening of racial understanding.

The same theory can — and should — be applied to homophobia, particularly as the majority of perpetrators of extreme racism and homophobia are nearly always the same: young, white males, usually in groups, frequently spurred on by one member of the group who suffers from that extreme ideation.

The truth of Poussaint's theory is clear in how keenly it has impacted white supremacists. A cursory look at Web sites of these groups points to Poussaint's request and the support of "Jew shrinks" as typifying the conspiracy of blacks and Jews to undermine the white race. Conversely Poussaint is equally unpopular with the Nation

of Islam, many of whose members would also meet his criteria.

Such a provocative concept certainly demands attention and investigation. Examining Poussaint's thoughtful and well-researched theory suggests application to homophobia — which has also escalated into extremes of violence with each successive year — should be made. And rather than giving homophobes a route for escape it narrows the avenue for them to perpetrate their violence. Queer activists should support Poussaint's request — and add our own. ▼

Victoria A. Brownworth is a Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist whose work appears in numerous national publications including the *Village Voice*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Girlfriends* magazine. She writes the *Lavender Tube* column for the *B.A.R.* Her most recent book, *Coming Out of Cancer: Writings from the Lesbian Cancer Epidemic*, received the Editor's Choice Award last week at the American Booksellers Association Exposition in Chicago.

LETTERS

Pride's message: Inclusion

Bohdan Zachary from Los Angeles [Mailstrom, May 31] suggests that the B-52's are somehow inappropriate to perform at San Francisco Pride because of their continued support of PETA. This is absurd. The B-52's support many worthy causes by performing free concerts to raise money for a wide array of organizations. These include the AIDS Coalition of Northeast Georgia, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Red Ribbon Foundation, Gay Men's Health Crisis, World Wildlife Fund, and last but not least, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The B-52's are no strangers to the loss and tragedy of AIDS. Founding band member Ricky Wilson died from AIDS in 1985, devastating the band. Openly gay band members Fred Schneider and Keith Strickland, together with Kate Pierson and Cindy Wilson (Ricky's sister) honor Ricky's memory and all those who have suffered and continue to suffer from AIDS by appearing at our event.

Our community in San Francisco is no stranger to energetic debate about how to respond to the AIDS pandemic. The appropriate responses from an ethical viewpoint, the types of treatments, therapies, and modes of activism necessary are as varied as our community. Rather than adopt a McCarthyistic approach, S.F. Pride respects the opinions and beliefs of everyone in this arena, which is why at our San Francisco event you will find a beautiful kaleidoscope of different opinions and organizations responding to the AIDS and HIV crisis represented. At the end of the day, Pride's central message is about respect and inclusion, not excluding a group of people just because you happen to disagree with them.

Teddy Witherington, Executive Director
San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
Pride Celebration Committee Inc.

Scouts expelled for being gay

Let me be the first to inform Michael Dybeck of the Boy Scouts [*"Boy Scouts' Raiders ad to be pulled at gay groups' urging," May 24*] that indeed Scouts have been expelled for reasons "related to sexuality." I was kicked out of Troop 37 in San Francisco in the late 1960s for being gay. I probably didn't know the terminology then, but I definitely knew why I was told not to return after my weeks at Boy Scout camp in Cazadero. Maybe he's just referring to the present day when (we can at least hope) Bay Area Scout leaders are a bit more enlightened.

Michael Carson
Oakland, California

Eviction woes

I'm a resident of the Castro facing a TIC eviction. The owners of the building my partner and I live in is being sold. The gay couple who own it are selling and retiring to Florida. We're told that because of the high property values in the Castro, the only kind of buyers that are interested in it are those who want to do a tenancy in common and force us out of our home.

It would be bad enough if we were employed. But as a result of the current economic slowdown, for the first time in the 15 years we've been together, both of us have been laid off at the same time.

After coming from a more backward part of the country, I cannot begin to tell you what it's meant to live in a neighborhood like the Castro. When we moved here, we were able to hold hands in public for the first time. It seems like such a little thing, but I can't tell you what it meant to us that first time; and we still walk down Castro Street holding hands.

There is the yearly Pride Parade. What an utterly amazing thing when seen for the first time! How astonishing to realize that we have the mayor, the city supervisors, the police and the fire department in our parade when in so much of the country it's controversial to even propose anti-discrimination legislation to protect gay people. The Castro Street Fair, the AIDS Candlelight Vigil, and other events almost without number, are just some of the many things in the Castro and San Francisco to enrich our lives as gay people. I have to wonder how much those who are long-term residents really appreciate what we have here. Or how much we stand to lose when we're forced out.

The Bay Area is not the same when viewed from Vallejo or Dublin. Castro Valley is no substitute for the Castro. Yet more and more gay people are being forced out of the Castro and San Francisco so that speculators and real estate investors with no interest in the rich heritage of the Castro can laugh all the way to the bank and bring in people who have no interest in the community.

Please remember that tenancies-in-common are not a shortcut to home ownership. They're a shortcut to diluting our community. A fat wallet should not be a blank check for inflicting pain on our fellow man. I am embarrassed that anyone who considers himself a true San Franciscan could either force someone out of their home so that he or she could live in it, or profit from such a tragedy.

Bob Hughes
San Francisco

Tenant-landlord battles

Homer Hobi may know a lot about AIDS drugs and is certainly helping PWAs survive with the assistance of the medicines he collects and sends to Latin America and Africa [*"Man who helps AIDS survivors in Africa, Latin America, faces eviction," May 31*]. But he doesn't know very much about the realities of real estate.

The article by David Fraser quotes him as saying that the new owners of the building he lives in "got a good price because the heirs sold below market price" to help him.

That's probably not why that building sold below market price. More likely it's because the presence of Mr. Hobi meant that the new owners of that two-unit building knew they would have to go through a lengthy, expensive, and ultimately unpleasant Ellis Act eviction to move into their own property. And I suspect they themselves aren't happy with the idea of evicting Mr. Hobi, either. Who would be?

Having a senior citizen or a tenant in a "protected" class means that a piece of real estate is, in effect, as damaged as if the paint were peeling or the plumbing leaked. That's why it sells for below market value. Below-market prices signal to the prospective buyer that the buyer will have to put some extra effort into the property. This effort may be his or her own elbow grease, if the property happens to be a fixer-upper, or it may involve bringing a lawsuit in order to move into your own new home. Regardless, that property is damaged

goods. That's why Safeway sells day-old bread and that's why some real estate sells for below market prices.

The insane war between landlords and tenant activists in San Francisco can only be cured if more housing is built and if more people enjoy the benefits of home ownership. As they say, the best form of eviction control is to own your own home.

Nancy Tucker
San Francisco

The Dalai Lama

This is in response to "A Dalai Lama update," by Steve Peskind [*Guest Opinion, May 24*]. Peskind refers to various publications in which Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, has presented his views on the subject of human sexuality.

It was not necessary for Peskind to ask, "When and where did the Buddha give teachings prohibiting same-sex partners?" The Buddha made no such statements as Peskind points out.

However, the Five Precepts refer to "sexual misconduct," the meaning of which is subject to interpretation. The Five Precepts are traditional and are quoted in Nyanatiloka Mahathera's *The Word of the Buddha*.

In his *The Illustrated World's Religions*, Huston Smith writes, "The Buddha detailed this directive in the Five Precepts that constitute the Buddhist version of the ethical half of the Ten Commandments."

Tenzin Gyatso is regarded by some to be the reincarnation of the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara. He only holds that authority which has been granted to him. "Dalai Lama" is a "title bestowed upon the head of the Yellow Hat monks, the dominant sect in Tibetan Buddhism, by the Mongol ruler Altan Khan in 1578," (*Oxford Encyclopedia of World History*).

There will no doubt be those who will dispute this with me, but the spiritual authority of the 14th Dalai Lama extends only over the Yellow Hat monks.

The political authority of the 14th Dalai Lama lasted from his swearing-in in 1940 to the time the Chinese forced him into exile in 1959. Tibet was invaded by the Communist Chinese in 1950.

The 14th Dalai Lama's teachings on the subject of human sexuality should not be regarded as a form of "spiritual violence" or "harmful behavior." However, I would question as to if he is engaging in right speech when he presents these teachings.

Robert V. Wood
San Francisco

Poz responds

As editor in chief of *Poz*, I didn't welcome the news that Survive AIDS' Jeff Getty has called for what amounts to a boycott of *Poz* [*"Time to throw out Poz," April 19*]. While Getty is entitled to his opinion about *Poz* ("a drug-company mouthpiece disguised as [a] magazine," "prostitute-like," "irresponsible," "trash"), he isn't entitled, by most journalistic standards, to promulgate errors of fact, groundless accusations, and outright lies.

Now, as the lead story of the same B.A.R. reported, Getty is running a successful drive to ban AIDS drug ads. And as Getty acknowledged in his column – and in the following April 24 e-mail to me – he's taking action against what he perceives as the magazine's opposition to his ban: "I warned [*Poz* publisher Brad] Peebles and Sean [Strub, *Poz* founder], you've trashed me for years but now when I stand up to you it's poor *Poz* magazine and that mean old Jeff Getty. Did you think we would let your comments to *USA Today* go

next page ►

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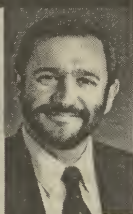
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◀ previous page

without action? Call me to discuss how to stop an unneeded war." The comments at issue – made by Brad Peebles, who was infected seven years ago at age 24 – were that, in his opinion, AIDS drug ads are "one tiny blip in the consciousness of people choosing to engage in risky behavior," not the cause. Getty's snap response was "an unneeded war." Even by the standards of San Francisco activism, this is overkill.

His case against Poz is based on several false premises. First, the "AIDS profiteering" charge. Far from "filling their bank accounts," Sean Strub and the other owners have, over eight years, spent nearly \$2 million to keep Poz publishing. Does Pozsell "vital research information about readers" to "drug companies and countless other marketers"? No. Our readership surveys are voluntary and anonymous, participants are often compensated, and the information shared with advertisers is untraceable to any individual. Nor is "the cost of admission to the Poz Life Expo your privacy." Registration at this free educational forum is requested but not required. No one has ever been turned away for refusing to give contact information.

In truth, Poz is respected for its editorial independence (from AIDS activists to no less than Big Pharma), not to mention its highly critical coverage of the very drugs advertised in its pages. But don't take my word for it. Ask Getty's fellow activist-experts, such as Martin Delaney, Mike Barr, Richard Jefferys, Tim Horn, Anne-Christine d'Adesky, and Lark Lands. They cover treatment issues for Poz, and it's their reporting that Getty condemns as "dangerous" ("One must be highly suspect of any advice within these pages"). Does Getty actually believe that some of the AIDS community's best and brightest are drug-company hacks?

Now, although Getty never disclosed it, he hasn't always wanted to trash Poz. In April 1996, not long after his historic baboon-bone-marrow transplant, Getty was the Poz cover subject (our fifth "sexy gay guy"), his smiling face accompanied by this quote: "I am a mean activist. I take no prisoners." Poz didn't have to take Getty prisoner for the interview; he was enthusiastic, even insistent, about our publicity. Since then, Poz has covered Getty twice, in a one-page follow-up interview to the cover story and in a 75-word item titled "Boy & Baboon" in a roundup of the top 99 AIDS stories of the 1990s. In each case, the coverage was not only fair and accurate, but affectionate and admiring.

Walter Armstrong, Editor
Poz Magazine
New York, New York

[Jeff Getty responds: You purposefully left out the rest of Brad Peebles' quote "The drug companies," he adds, "aren't responsible for keeping people [HIV] negative." So Poz speaks for the drug companies now? Actually, when dispensing medical advice in a DTC ad, the drug companies are responsible, which is why the FDA agreed with S.F. DPH and Survive AIDS, pulled the ads and will be requiring prevention messages from now on. As for your low-brow personal attack on me, your vague and incorrect recollections of my coverage in Poz, good or bad, have nothing to do with the debate subject or my column. But this time-proven strategy is typical of AIDS Inc.; personal character assassination for any PWA who dares speak out against you or your corporate clients.]

Smoke in GLAAD's eyes

I am a founding board member of GLAAD. I was dismayed to learn that GLAAD's 12th annual Media Awards (June 9, San Francisco) is sponsored in part by the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., which will host "a special lounge for attendees who wish to smoke." As one of our community's most prominent national organizations, GLAAD is doing a great disservice to LGBT people who have been disproportionately harmed by a ruthless industry. Shame on them. They should know better.

One may wonder why an organization committed to ending the defamation of queers should not be in bed with the tobacco industry. The recent revelation that a mid-1990s campaign by RJ Reynolds to target gay men in the Castro was code-named "Project Scum" might provide a clue. Sure they'll take our money and happily addict us, but not without amusing themselves by defaming us in secret.

I call upon GLAAD to denounce this duplicity and join the growing number of community organizations and publications that refuse to accept tobacco sponsorship and advertising.

Naphtali Offen
San Francisco

Disagrees with editorial

I was dismayed when I read the B.A.R.'s May 24 editorial against the proposed "reciprocal partnerships" legislation proposed by Vermont House Republicans. This legislation neither rescinds any of the same-sex civil unions performed in Vermont over the past year nor bars future same-sex unions from occurring. Rather, it extends the legal benefits that same-sex couples currently receive to other couples that are

in demonstrably "reciprocal" relationships, regardless of sexual orientation, and who cannot legally marry. The example given is a man who wishes to share his medical benefits with his elderly mother who lives with him.

You maintain that this plan, if enacted, would "certainly degrade" the meaningfulness of gay and lesbian civil unions, the closest legally recognizable form of marriage for people of the same sex. You also quote a Democratic state legislator who says that the plan would "diminish the value of gay and lesbian families and the loving relationships they represent." The proposed legislation would do no such thing except in the minds of fearful, short-sighted activists. This is the same language of fear used by those who oppose legal recognition of same-sex marriage who feel it would mock and endanger the institution of (heterosexual) marriage. Opposition to this legislation is, in fact, a morally conservative stance that seeks to preserve privilege for only those families that hew the closest to "traditional family values." Gays and lesbians should be the last group of people to deploy language and arguments defending an institution against alternative family arrangements between consenting adults because they are deemed inferior and somehow less worthy of legal protection.

I see no moral justification for not extending the legal benefits and protections currently enjoyed by gay and lesbian couples in Vermont to those in similar, reciprocally loving and caring family arrangements. As the familiar saying goes, it is love – not a marriage or civil union – that makes a family. As a matter of consistency and political principle, the gay and lesbian movement should support reciprocal partnerships legislation in Vermont.

Stephen S. Bayer
San Francisco

'Magnificent erections'

Cathedral competition is the sport of bishops. San Francisco's Catholic bishop erected one, a temple of emptiness; now Oakland's bishop proposes an even greater one, a monument to vacuity. Men in pink dresses, acting out the edifice complex, yearn to stud the landscape with their magnificent erections.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland (comprising Alameda and Contra Costa counties) wants to construct a huge cathedral and expansive plaza on city-owned land between the Kaiser Convention Center and Lake Merritt. Grotesquely shaped like a bishop's mitre, the edifice would soar to a height of 16 stories – almost twice the height of the nine-story Flatiron Building at 14th and Broadway. The plaza would overhang 12th Street and actually jut over the shore of Lake Merritt in the shape of an arrowhead pointing at the community churches that are the life of Oakland's neighborhoods.

You can't miss it, and you won't be able to ignore it. That's the problem. This project will give an overbearing presence in the heart of the city's gathering place – Lake Merritt, the county courthouse, the convention center, the main library, and the Oakland Museum – to the Catholic Church at the expense of other-believers and non-believers.

The diocese has no plans to close Our Lady of Lourdes Church on the east side of Lake Merritt, nor the adjacent Chancery offices. Lourdes will conduct services as usual, while the cathedral workshops with large-scale pomp. No one has suggested that the diocese swap the eastside properties, or the old cathedral at 21st and San Pablo, for the proposed new site. The largest private landowner in the world is lobbying to be gifted this strategic piece of city land – a coveted site on the lake – gratis.

The Catholic Church is intensely political. Externally, it seeks to conform civil society to its religious scruples while it claims those same scruples to exempt itself from compliance with civil codes. Visually, the cathedral challenges the county courthouse. Internally, Catholic politics are brutally discriminatory. The church prohibits women and people with disabilities from priesthood and diaconate. It excludes divorcees and sexual minorities from sacramental life and full church membership.

Establishment of religion, whether real or symbolized in mammoth construction, is a threat to American pluralism. This massive cathedral plaza creates the appearance of Catholic ascendancy downtown. Every other denomination will necessarily appear diminished. Acquiring the choice location and the zoning permits is a statement of political influence. Erecting and maintaining the project is a display of great wealth. Because the Catholic Church has never given up its ambition to reunite all Christians to Rome, this project symbolizes predominance, not pluralism. It asserts Catholicism's posture of "one over all," and softens the intention of democracy to keep the Church of Rome "one among many."

Is this the appropriate signature element for Lake Merritt's vital south side?

If you live in the diocese, please make your opinion known to the Oakland City Council at (510) 238-3266 or, better yet, crop them a note at 1 Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94611.

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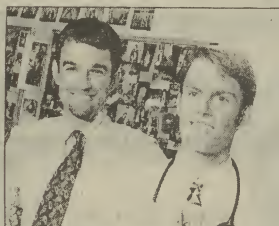


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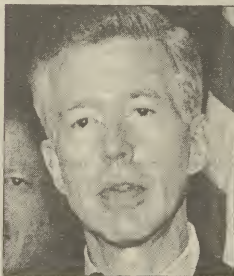
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Riordan for governor? McCain to bolt GOP?

by Wayne Friday

The California Republican Party, still reeling from its crushing defeat in last November's election, is desperate to find a candidate to run against Governor Gray Davis next year. With Arnold Schwarzenegger's decision not to run, investment banker William Simon being a virtual political unknown despite his millions, and Secretary of State Bill Jones running far behind Davis in all polls, the Republicans have begun pressuring Los Angeles' outgoing Mayor Richard Riordan into the race.

A recent Field Poll showed Riordan as the strongest possible GOP candidate to take on the embattled Democratic governor; indeed, the poll released last week shows Davis and Riordan running neck-and-neck in a trial heat with the governor leading the mayor by a single percentage point, 43 percent to 42 percent. That is, however, only in the event that the election were held today when in fact it won't be held until November 2002.



Governor Gray Davis

While it is true that Davis's approval numbers have plummeted from a high of 60 percent in January to a current 42 percent — mostly due to the state's worsening energy crisis — it should be noted that more and more Californians are now blaming the federal government for the rolling blackouts and higher electricity prices. Davis's numbers could recover somewhat as consumers realize he has done what he can while the Bush administration continues to virtually ignore the problem.

L.A.'s Riordan is prevented by term limits from running again, and has only recently professed what can at best be described as an ambivalent interest in running for governor. He even quipped, "I have nothing against the people of California so why should I run for governor?" Recently, however, Riordan has been telling reporters that he is "seriously" looking at a possible run for governor, noting the "vacuum within the state Republican Party." He added that he will spend the next few months exploring the possibility of running by speaking to Californians about their concerns and ideas before making a final decision "sometime probably late in September."

Indeed, Riordan said he is thinking of forming an exploratory committee later this month. "Do I think I could do a good job for the state as governor? Yes, I do," Riordan said this week.

It is no secret that in both Washington and Sacramento Re-

publicans are anxious to reverse the sorry state of the party in California where Democrats hold all but one statewide office, control both houses of the state Legislature, both U.S. Senate seats, and control the state's delegation to the House of Representatives.

During his whirlwind 48-hour visit to the state last week, President George W. Bush urged Riordan to run for governor, reportedly telling the mayor that his candidacy "would be good for the party and good for California." California Republicans feel that Riordan, 71, has a winning profile in that he is relatively well-known statewide, has the capacity to raise money for an expensive statewide campaign (he is multimillionaire who accepts only a \$1 annual salary as L.A. mayor), and has a strong base among some Democrats and Latino voters, though that base has never been tested outside greater Los Angeles.

Though many Republicans feel that the state's growing energy problems could be used as an issue against Davis, many of those close to Riordan doubt that he would really be interested in going through what would surely be a grueling, bitter statewide campaign. Riordan made millions during his careers as an attorney and venture capitalist. Some of those closest to him say he is ready to go back to private life and the idea of running for governor is being explored only as a "distant possibility." A Davis-Riordan contest for governor, however, would be a hard-fought and exciting political race and one highly respected L.A. political consultant who knows Riordan well said this week that "he's tasted eight years of this public life and I don't quite see him fading into the California sunset."

Clearly, the California Republicans are so desperate for a strong candidate to run against Davis that the party nomination is probably his for the asking. Riordan versus Davis in 2002? It would be a fun one to watch.

McCain to bolt GOP?

Arizona U.S. Senator John McCain, struggling with his party and his political future, hosted Senator Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), the new Senate majority leader, and his wife at his Sedona, Arizona ranch this past weekend. Despite McCain's declaration that he has no intention of leaving the Republican Party or running for president in 2004 as an independent, rumors swirled around Washington last week that he would eventually do both.

Although McCain himself was still telling reporters as late as Sunday that "I have not instructed nor encouraged any of my advisers to begin planning for a presidential run in 2004, nor do I have any intention to leave the Republican Party," the *Washington Post* quoted at least two sources said to be close to the senator as saying McCain is indeed talking quietly with advisers about eventually leaving the GOP and mounting a third-party challenge to George W. Bush in 2004.

McCain, who ran against Bush

in the Republican primaries last year and was one of only two Republicans in Congress to vote against his tax cut, used the recent defection of Vermont GOP U.S. Senator James Jeffords to lash out at Bush and the Republican leadership saying "It is well past time for the Republican Party to grow up; if you're going to threaten retaliation, revenge, and punishment to people because they don't always vote exactly as

you want them to, then you're going to pay a price." McCain himself has sided with Democrats on a patients' bill of rights and other issues and, with sweeping support from Democrats, succeeded earlier this year in pushing a campaign finance bill through the Senate over strong objections from Bush and the GOP congressional leadership.

Is Bush really worried about McCain's political plans? You bet he is. So much so, in fact, that Bush personally called the Arizona senator the day he learned of Daschle's visit to McCain's ranch, presumably seeking reassurances that McCain was staying put with the GOP. What does all this mean? It means that McCain is smart enough to realize that all the speculation about him only helps keep both Republicans and Democrats guessing what he is up to and it means that the Republicans, in the wake of losing Jeffords (and with him, control of the Senate) are increasingly sensitive about the impact of restless mavericks like McCain and Rhode Island's Lincoln Chafee, to name but two.

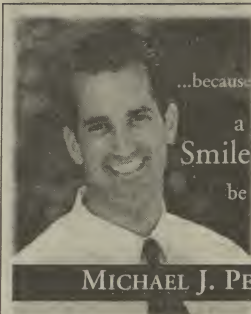
Although one Washington insider, long known as a McCain loyalist, said this week that "I don't really think John is yet ready to leave the party at least immediately," the same person left open the prospect that McCain eventually could become even more disaffected with Bush and his White House operatives and said that McCain's political advisers want to make sure that no options are permanently closed.

Politics and people

A large turnout Saturday at Mark Leno's Assembly kickoff rally at the Plumbers' Union Hall on Market. Representative Nancy Pelosi introduced Leno as "The next assemblyperson from the 13th District," and told the crowd that "Mark has done a great job as a supervisor and is far and away the best qualified person to serve as our next Assemblyman." Others in attendance giving Leno their endorsements were Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, former Supe Sue Bierman, city Treasurer Susan Leal, former Ambassador James Hormel, representatives from the offices of Kevin Shelley, Jackie Speier, and former Mayor Art Agnos, city attorney candidate Dennis Herrera, and numerous labor and civil rights organizations. The Mark Leno for Assembly campaign is definitely off to a good start.

You've probably heard by now, but it seems George W. Bush has "declined" to issue a White House proclamation proclaiming June as Gay Pride Month (surprised, are

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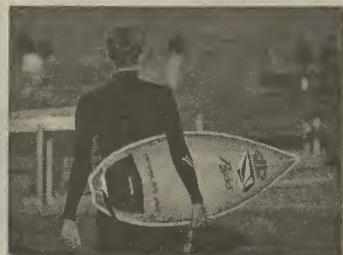


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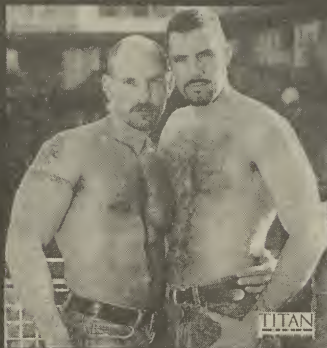


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Recent study on gay parenting is good news

by Paula Martinac

The lesbian and gay movement has long dismissed the idea that the children of queer parents turn out to be different from those raised in heterosexual households. But according to a new study published in the *American Sociological Review*, lesbian mothers and gay fathers do indeed parent differently than their straight counterparts. And guess what? That's nothing to be ashamed of.

Released just days before Robert Spitzer's controversial study that suggested some gays can willingly become straight, the findings of sociologists Timothy Biblarz and Judith Stacey on lesbian and gay parenting got lost in the media frenzy. But Biblarz and Stacey's study has important implications for our movement nonetheless.

For years, right-wing psychologists and sociologists have made the case that being raised by lesbian and gay parents is harmful to children. The kids of gay parents, these researchers argue, are at risk for being sexually molested by their parents; have a greater chance of being orphaned by AIDS or suicide; suffer more emotional and psychological difficulties than if they'd been raised by heterosexuals; and, horror of horrors, are more likely to grow up queer themselves. Politically motivated "research" like this has routinely been trotted out in the courts and the legislatures to take children away from gay parents or to deny adoption and foster parenting rights to lesbians and gay men.

It's understandable, then, that social scientists who support lesbian and gay parenting rights and the fight for same-sex marriage have maintained that the children of gay parents are virtually identical to those of straight parents. Presumably, if gay families are just the same as straight families, there's no need to discriminate against them. Instead of looking at and analyzing the differences between gay and straight parents, gay-friendly scholars have tended to "accept heterosexual parenting as the gold standard," say Biblarz and Stacey, and to outline the ways in which gay parenting mea-

sures up to it.

Our community has assumed this same defensive posture, stressing our sameness rather than our differences. Even gay parenting guides like the recently published *For Lesbian Parents*, by developmental psychologists Suzanne Johnson and Elizabeth O'Connor (who are themselves lesbian mothers), assert that "our families are like other families in most ways."

But, in fact, the unique qualities of our families are interesting and noteworthy. In their research, Biblarz and Stacey exam-

ined 21 separate studies of queer families (mostly headed by lesbians, because there's been much less research on

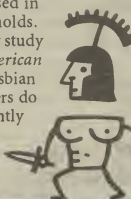
bian mothers "behave in less traditionally masculine ways" than sons of heterosexual mothers. Interestingly, lesbians' sons obtained the lowest scores on a standardized test that measured "sex-typed masculine behaviors," while boys raised in heterosexual two-parent families scored highest. With findings like these, we might be tempted to wonder what would happen to the incidence of negative masculine behaviors, like rape and domestic violence, and to sex-based discrimination in general, if all boys were raised the way the sons of lesbians are.

Equally significant are Biblarz and Stacey's conclusions about the sexual development of kids from queer families. As gay-friendly researchers have consistently and accurately maintained, children raised by lesbian and gay parents are no more likely to turn out to be gay than the kids of heterosexual parents. But Biblarz and Stacey tack on an important addendum: Children of lesbian parents are "more open to a broad range of sexual possibilities" and experimentation than are children of straight parents. They also tend to be "more comfortable with sexual desires and practices" that differ from the "norm."

Of course, examining differences like these might very well fuel religious right-wingers, who could easily charge that the research confirms their worst fears—lesbians don't raise "real men," and gay parents actively teach their kids to be sexually "deviant."

However, talking about the ways in which we're different from straight parents can also be positive. Biblarz and Stacey point out that political pressure has constrained intellectual development in social-science research on parenting. In recent years, though, considerable progress has been made in judicial decisions on lesbian and gay families. If psychologists and sociologists begin to feel free to compare and contrast all the different ways of raising children, they may conclude that heterosexual parenting is not always the best model. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books, including *The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNColum@aol.com.



Lesbian Notions



gay fathers) made over the last two decades and often cited by advocates for lesbian and gay parents. What they discovered is that some of the special attributes of gay families have been downplayed. Now it's time to assert that being different is okay.

If you read Biblarz and Stacey's report, it's hard not to agree that the differences are worth noting. Consider this, for example: Girls and boys raised by lesbian mothers don't generally conform to traditional gender roles. More than the daughters of heterosexual women, daughters of lesbians feel free to engage in "male" games and activities and aspire to "male" professions. They are often "more sexually adventurous and less chaste."

On the other hand, sons of les-

Our Man Friday

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you?). The White House press person said that Bush would not, as President Bill Clinton did, issue a proclamation with such a designation for this month. Nor, as another White House official put into writing, will the executive office of the president sponsor any observance. It should not go unnoticed, however, that since Bush was awarded the White House by five members of the U.S. Supreme Court, he has signed proclama-

tions designating Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Irish-American Heritage Month.

More from Washington: Democratic House Minority Whip David Bonior is leaving Congress to run for governor of Michigan and the fight is on between our own Representative Nancy Pelosi and Representative Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland) to replace him as Democratic whip, the No. 2 position in the leadership. Pelosi reportedly has support from House Democratic members across the political spectrum and would be

the first woman to hold the powerful position; she is thought to be the current favorite to win the post.

With the Democrats taking control of the Senate this week, albeit with a slim 50-49-1 edge, California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer will gain significant political power. Feinstein has already written to Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Connecticut), the new chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, asking him to hold hearings right away on the state's

next page ▶

Who Is k.d. lang?

by Rawley Grau

June 16, 1992 (nine years ago this month): In an interview with the *Advocate*, singer k.d. lang becomes the first major recording artist to come out as a lesbian.

With her boyish looks and gender-bending style, combined with her continual hedging about her personal life, it was hard not to assume that Canadian country singer k.d. lang was a lesbian. So when *Advocate* feature writer Brendan Lemon finally coaxed her into coming out in print, no one was especially surprised by the revelation.

The bigger news was that at last a major figure in the entertainment world was talking about being gay.

In the early 1990s, this was still a rare event. Mainstream pop stars had come out before: in 1976, Elton John told *Rolling Stone* he was bisexual, and in 1982, crooner Johnny Mathis came out in *Us* magazine. But the flamboyant British rocker John was widely perceived as attempting to obscure his homosexuality, and Mathis was no longer a performer who commanded attention.

But in June 1992, with two Grammys, an acclaimed crossover album, and a hit single, 30-year-old k.d. lang was among the most prominent women in music. Other semi-closeted entertainers, notably, Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres, and even John, followed lang's lead over the next several years.

Breaking through boundaries

was nothing new for Kathryn Dawn Lang. "I thrived on being different," lang recently told the *Advocate*, speaking of her childhood in Consort, Alberta, a prairie town with a population of 650. "In small towns eccentricities are considered part of the norm."

Her parents, in fact, were very supportive not only of her musical ambitions, but also of such tomboy inclinations as motorcycles, marksmanship, and butch drag (she wore hiking boots with her senior prom dress). As an adolescent, lang was comfortable with her sexual orientation and, at 17, came out to her mother, a schoolteacher. (Her father had abandoned the family five years earlier.)

After a couple of years of studying music, lang moved to Edmonton in 1981, the year she turned 20. She had grown up loving rock 'n' roll, but now she began listening seriously to country-western music, especially the songs of Patsy Cline. And she had an epiphany.

"It just went click," she later said. "I saw myself, how I was going to dress, how I was going to move. I saw the kind of singing I was going to do." So obsessed did she become with Cline that she started saying she was the reincarnation of the 1950s star (even though lang was almost 2 years old when Cline died in a plane crash).

In 1983, with the help of manager Larry Wanagas, lang formed a band called the Reclines, named in tribute to her idol, and started

performing her unusual brand of country music as "k.d. lang" — lowercase, in emulation of poet e.e. cummings.

Lang's offbeat stage persona played with gender as it mixed country-western style with performance art: a spiky haircut, no makeup, a full skirt embroidered with plastic cowboys and Indians, and cutoff cowboy boots. But lang's pure mezzo voice won over not only alternative-music fans, but also traditional country audiences.

Word spread quickly, and soon she was getting bookings throughout Canada.

Over the next two years, lang cut her first album, won a Juno Award (the Canadian equivalent of the Grammy), and made her debut in New York. And she became the first country singer to sign with Warner Brothers' Sire Records, whose other artists included Madonna and the Talking Heads.

By the late 1980s, lang had established her country-music credentials. She had collaborated with venerated producer Owen Bradley; she had recorded with giants Loretta Lynn, Kitty Wells, and Brenda Lee; and she had won two Grammys — in 1988 for her pairing with Roy Orbison on his song "Crying," and in 1989 for her album *Absolute Torch and Twang*. Meanwhile, she had garnered a string of Canadian honors.

But still, lang's androgynous image didn't sit well with the ho-



Singer k.d. lang

mophobic Nashville establishment. Year after year, she was shut out of the Country Music Association Awards, and country radio stations across the United States avoided playing her.

The rift widened in 1990, when lang, a committed vegetarian, made a televised public service announcement urging people not to eat meat. Nor were the good ol' boys pleased when she starred as a half-Eskimo lesbian in the movie *Salmonberries*.

With 1992's *Ingénue*, a cycle of sultry torch songs, the break with country music was virtually complete. So when the *Advocate* asked for an interview soon after the album's release, lang, who for years had declined to talk to gay media, was ready.

To lang's own surprise, there were few immediate repercussions after the interview. *Ingénue* soon went platinum, and the single "Constant Craving" rose to the top of the pop charts, winning

lang her third Grammy, for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

In subsequent work, lang has seemed more comfortable with herself — no more hedging pronouns. In 1996, she became involved with rock singer Leisha Hailey. Although the relationship has recently ended, it inspired lang's 2000 release, *Invincible Summer*, an album suffused with sunny love.

But whether coming out has impeded her career in the long run is harder to tell. Possibly, she is now more likely to be viewed as a "niche" performer, appealing primarily to other lesbians. In any case, none of the four albums she has released since 1992, has come close to the success of *Ingénue*. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Kort, Michele, 2000. "k.d.: A Woman In Love," the *Advocate*, June 20, 2000. Pp. 50-59.

Martinac, Paula, 1997. *k.d. lang. Lives of Notable Gay Men and Lesbians*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers.

Starr, Victoria, 1994. *k.d. lang: All You Get Is Me*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Our Man Friday

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energy crisis. Last month, California's two senators split on the Bush tax cut — Feinstein joined 11 other Democrats in voting for it; Boxer voted against.

And don't look for the new Democrat-controlled Senate to confirm the recently-announced appointment of former Southern California Congressman **James Rogan** as an undersecretary of Commerce. Rogan, defeated last November by Democrat **Adam Schiff**, was a lead prosecutor in President Clinton's impeachment trial, very likely the main reason he lost his election. Meanwhile, yet another Southern California Republican House member, **Christopher Cox** (Newport Beach), apparently saw the writing on the wall and quickly withdrew his name as a candidate for a federal judgeship. New York U.S. Senator **Charles Schumer**, the incoming chair of the judiciary subcommittee on courts, has already warned the Bush White House they would not let hard-right conservative nominees through the Senate. "Judges will have to be moderate; everything will have to be moderate," Schumer said.

Democratic state Senator **Jack O'Connell** (San Luis Obispo) became the first announced candidate for the state superintendent of public instruction last week; Assemblywoman **Lynne Leach** (R-Walnut Creek) is expected to announce that she's also running for the school post. The state schools chief job is a nonpartisan office, with all candidates running together in the March 2002 primary.

Former Oakland Council

member **Wilson Riles Jr.** appears to be the coalition candidate for mayor against incumbent **Jerry Brown** in the primary next March.

Los Angeles City Council member **Joel Wachs**, the openly gay member who came in fourth in the April mayoral primary, announced he will resign his council seat and move to New York City to become president of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Wachs, 62, has served on the Los Angeles council for 20 years.

In Honolulu, Hawaiian state Representative **William Stonebaker** (R), stating that he has "a responsibility to God," announced he will likely resign his seat to protest the state GOP chairwoman's decision to allow an openly gay member of the Log Cabin Club, **Jeffrey Mead**, to speak to the state GOP convention; Mead, incidentally, was greeted with a standing ovation.

George W. Bush's twins are at it again: **Jenna Bush**, who just finished her freshman year at the University of Texas at Austin, and who was also cited on an illegal booze charge in April, got nabbed again last week in Austin trying to score a drink by using someone else's ID. Meanwhile, her twin sister **Barbara**, who just completed her first year at Yale, got a bit luckier — she slipped by the bartender and got served without being asked for her ID. Both Jenna and Barbara are 19 and unfortunately for the girls, you must be 21 to drink in the Lone Star State. Both were cited under the tough Texas law against underage drinking that their father signed when he was governor. What's that old saying about "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree?" Paging **Betty Ford**.

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McStalker

by Jane Warner

1 9th and Dolores, May 31, 1:30 p.m.: A man told officers that earlier that day while sitting in a parked Volvo near Dolores Park with his boyfriend, he broke off their relationship and a heated argument ensued. The scorned beau threw an empty french fry container, and the man responded by throwing a plastic soda cup. The man reported he exited the vehicle and walked into Dolores Park as his ex circled the park several times honking the car's horn. The man eventually walked home, only to find his ex-boyfriend parked in front of his house. When his ex saw him, he yelled out the window, "Stay there," and drove the car up over the curb and down the sidewalk toward him at a high rate

of speed. The victim jumped out of the way to avoid being hit, and the ex sped past him and out of sight. The man told police he was uninjured but still wanted to press charges. Officers filed an emergency protective order and gave the man a domestic violence referral card. An attempt to find the suspect was unsuccessful.

Out on a limb

3400 block of Market, May 31, 6:50 p.m.:

A man coming home from walking his dog noticed a pair of legs sticking out of his living room window. The man quickly entered his house and saw the same pair of legs turned around in the window, now exiting his house. The resident ran outside again and found a man straddling his fence. Asking him what he thought he was doing, the man simply told him, "Breaking in." The burglar, described as an African

American male, 6 feet tall, 145 pounds, wearing a light colored shirt and blue jeans, climbed over the fence and ran toward Market Street. Responding police were unable to find him.

Hot property

Castro and 18th, June 1, 2:15 p.m.: A police officer on foot patrol in the Castro noticed a San Francisco Police Department badge displayed in the window of a local antique store. When she ran a check of the badge, she found that it had been reported stolen in 1991 by a police officer still on the force. The owner of the store stated he had bought the badge from an antique dealer. The badge was confiscated and returned to the officer who reported it missing 10 years ago. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.



Gay vets get monument

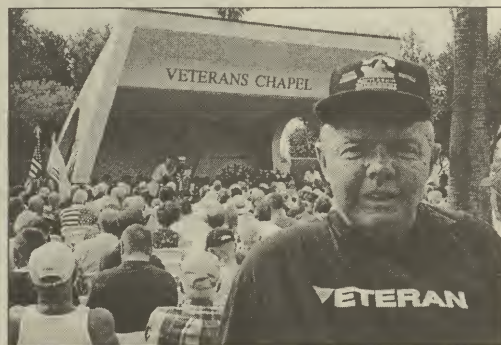
by Cynthia Laird

What many gay and lesbian service members never thought possible actually happened in Cathedral City over Memorial Day weekend—a monument honoring gay service men and women was unveiled at Desert Memorial Park.

The monument in the Southern California city near Palm Springs was championed by former Marine Sergeant Tom Swann, and others who formed the AMVETS Post 66 in March in an effort to meet legal requirements. The post is officially recognized by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

San Francisco resident and U.S. Navy veteran Bob Healy was one of the more than 100 people who attended the ceremony. Healy, who represented LGBT San Francisco veterans, said he was very moved by the service.

According to the *Desert Sun*, Swann began the ceremony with a powerful speech. A color guard followed, carrying flags representing the branches of the armed forces as well as the rainbow flag



U.S. Navy veteran Bob Healy at the service in Cathedral City honoring gay and lesbian veterans.

symbolizing gay pride.

"Now we can have closure to the wars of the last century," Swann said.

Dorothy Holman, the mother of slain Navy serviceman Allen Schindler, who was 23 when he was beaten to death for being gay in 1992 in Japan, also attended the service.

Gay veterans and their supporters started work on the project in January. The memorial was

approved by the Palm Springs Cemetery District, and sits in a park adjacent to the cemetery.

"It's a turn-of-the-century event," Dennis Palt, a former Air Force staff sergeant who served in Vietnam, told the Associated Press. "I had hoped for this but you could have never thought this would become a reality in the 1970s, 1980s, or 1990s. It's fabulous." ▼

Get him off your chest

Past calendar winners sought for reunion

by Katie Szymanski

Barker. Berger. Conrad. Edwards. Somewhere there's a set of handsome nipples attached to these names, and the folks at South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events are asking for your help in locating them.

Next month, in conjunction with the Dore Alley Fair, the leather community will pay tribute to the annual Bare Chest Calendar contests, a fundraising tool conceived by the late Terry Thompson, manager of the S.F. Eagle for 11 years and prior to that, manager of the now-defunct

Arena bar. The calendar has featured some of the area's hottest men and raised over \$100,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resource Center since 1984, and the July event will be the first-ever reunion of the guys who have both reminded us of important dates and promoted relief for people with HIV/AIDS.

Of the more than 200 men who have revealed their goods for the annual tradition, many have unfortunately passed away due to the very virus they raised money to fight. About 65 pin-up models, however, remain unaccounted for, and are eagerly being sought to participate in the Bare Chest Calendar reunion. The city promises

to "sizzle," according to reunion organizers, when all these poster boys are gathered together. But the public's help is needed in finding any information about them.

A complete list of missing chests and the men they come with can be found at www.bccreunion.org. Clues, tips, and contact details about these men can be forwarded to info@bccreunion.org, or called in to the BCC Reunion hotline at (415) 267-3950. The reunion will be held at noon on Saturday, July 28 at the Eagle, 398 12th Street, and is sponsored by Miller Brewing Co. and SMMILE and supported by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. ▼

HIV-positive gay man released from jail

Felony charges of statutory rape reduced

by Katie Szymanski

He survived the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, but Chad Wyatt says he'd rather repeat that experience over the hell he has endured for the past seven months at the Siskiyou County Jail in Yreka, California.

Wyatt, 34, was serving time awaiting trial on 16 felony counts related to having sex with a minor and being HIV-positive. Wyatt, who has always denied any physical contact with his 16-year-old accuser, pleaded "no contest" three weeks ago to five misdemeanors in order to be released from jail, where he spent 208 days following his arrest last October.

Assistant District Attorney Tim Pappas dropped the felony charges after the alleged victim, a troubled teen with a record of mental illness, was caught engaging in sex with another adult male and subsequently offered conflicting accounts of what happened.

Deciding the teen's credibility was not strong enough to build a case, Pappas at first reportedly offered a deal whereby Wyatt would plead guilty to two felonies, which he refused to do. The no contest pleas still convicted Wyatt of misdemeanor charges, but they do not limit his ability to file a civil slander suit against the county. The pleas also allowed him to get out of jail at a time when he could not raise the necessary bail and his health was failing rapidly.

"This has been the biggest roller coaster ride of my life," Wyatt told the *Bay Area Reporter* following his release. While in jail, he experienced various AIDS-related illnesses that he said went untreated. "I was very close to death, and very close to going crazy. I'm thankful to be out. I would have died in there."

One can trace the roots of Wyatt's legal case to the small gay-friendly town of Ashland, Oregon, just across the state border from his home in Yreka. Wyatt, a frequent

visitor to the town, befriended his young accuser who was known to many locals as a compulsive liar.

"He would introduce himself to older men and tell them he was 21 years old," Bob Ruhl, the owner of a coffee and chocolate shop in downtown Ashland, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He also went around saying he had tested HIV-positive, which we later learned was untrue."

Last fall, according to Ruhl, two events happened in quick succession: the teenager wound up in a mental hospital for self-destructive behavior, and Wyatt was arrested on October 18. According to Wyatt, he sent the boy a get well card, which was intercepted by hospital staff. The staff asked the boy if Wyatt was a man he had slept with, and the boy answered affirmatively. Documents of the boy's entry into the mental hospital quoted him as having various relationships with older men, but those same documents also deter-

mined that he was "psychotic;" "had difficulty with reality;" and "seemed to want to please and give the right answer." The documents also stated that the boy had a suicidal fantasy of contracting AIDS and dying.

Nevertheless, the boy's story was elaborated upon, and he eventually told a police detective that he and Wyatt engaged in oral and anal copulation on two different occasions in Wyatt's home and that although there were condoms all around the house, Wyatt never used one.

Wyatt's version of events is that the boy had come on to him in the past, but that he refused his advances. A private investigator's report also showed that a former lover of Wyatt's reported that Wyatt was incapable of having unprotected sex while in the context of their relationship. Additional interviews performed by the investigator showed that numerous partners of Wyatt's were all informed of his HIV status and that

Wyatt had only engaged in very low risk activity with them.

None of the evidence in support of Wyatt seemed to matter, however, when it came to a gay man accused of statutory rape; the conservative Northern California prosecutors and media had a field day with the story, and Wyatt's bail jumped from \$75,000 to \$250,000 when his HIV-positive status was learned. His AIDS also played a role in sentencing enhancements, and Wyatt faced 38 years in prison if he had been found guilty of all the offenses.

For Wyatt, who lived a very out life in San Francisco as Chad Seibold in the 1980s (he changed his last name when his mother died), the emotional toll from the ordeal has been very damaging, and he is now looking to move from Yreka, where he had relocated to be closer to his family.

"I live in constant fear here," said Wyatt, still readjusting to his newfound freedom. "I am ready to move on with my life." ▼

Universe 911

◀ page 3

by-case basis and a criminal conviction would not necessarily stop an applicant from obtaining a permit to operate. Meyer said she couldn't explain the discrepancy in Joseph's applications because she wasn't working in her position when it was filed. She said successful applicants are not obligated to report any future criminal convictions.

The B.A.R. contacted Joseph for a response last Thursday, May 31. She referred the B.A.R. to her attorneys, Kate Dyer and Nanci Clarence. Dyer was given a list of questions and said she would get back to the B.A.R. on Monday, June 4. She did not. Two calls to her office on Monday were not returned.

Joseph is featured in a full-page photograph in the current edition of *San Francisco* magazine as one of "47 huge talents who run this town."

"She's the owner/event producer for Club Townsend and de facto master of ceremonies for gay entertainment in San Francisco," the magazine wrote, "running the largest gay club on the West Coast and throwing gay parties at Club Universe and Pleasuredome."

Joseph, 54, has been out since 1961, according to the brief article entitled "Life of the Party."

Goring's mother told the B.A.R. last month that she wasn't up to talking to the media yet but would consider doing so in the future. Goodfellow said that she filed the lawsuit reluctantly but did so primarily to send a message to prevent a similar tragedy from happening to anyone else.

Goring's good friend, Steve Cohen, told the B.A.R. that he remembers Goring best for his upbeat and optimistic outlook on life. Cohen said Goring never spoke ill about anyone and lived by the motto that there was good in everyone.

Goring worked as a banquet server for the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Hotel general manager Fred Hansen told the B.A.R. that he and other employees were devastated by Goring's death. Hansen said he was an outstanding employee who seemed to be always in a good mood. ▼

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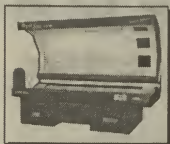
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LGBT community center sought for Berkeley

by David Fraser

If things work out the way Kriss Worthington hopes, the Pacific Center for Human Growth, the nation's third oldest continuously operating LGBT center, may get a new home in the next few years.

Worthington, an openly gay member of the Berkeley City Council, is asking for \$25,000 in the next municipal budget to do preliminary planning for a comprehensive LGBT center.

His goal – if it proves feasible – is to build a multi-story building with offices for nonprofit LGBT groups, public meeting space, and some housing. Local media have reported University of California students sleeping in cars and on sofas. Homeless people are sleeping on streets.

With the blessing of the Pacific Center management, Worthington unveiled his concept during a "People's State of the City" address, offered as an alternative to Mayor Shirley Dean's May 1 address. Between 150 and 200 people attended the May 29 gathering.

The two officials often take opposing sides on Berkeley's nine-member council.

Advocates

"The Pacific Center staff and

Berkeley City Council member
Kriss Worthington

volunteers are some of the most avid advocates for a comprehensive gay and lesbian community center," Worthington said. "Probably more than anyone else, they realize the immensity of needs and demand for social services, counseling, and community meeting space.

He said the proposed center would not be in competition with the Pacific Center, but in cooperation.

"We want to embrace the entire LGBT community to be inclusive, and are certainly inviting all such Berkeley groups [to participate]. Most of them need

more office space," Worthington said. "We want to give priority to existing organizations here, like the transgender group for young people, but if the budget permits, there would be room for other groups."

The Pacific Center [see related story] grappled with major financial problems during some of the 1990s, plus rent that, while not excessive, takes a big bite out of its budget. Housed in a handsome old Victorian on Telegraph Avenue, it has wheelchair access but only to the first floor.

"We've been in this building about 23 years," said Executive Director Frank Gurucharri. "The community has grown, and we're bursting at the seams. There are many other organizations in Berkeley, and the East Bay.

"There's very little in the way of community. ... These [distances] divide us from synergizing our resources and working together."

He added that a major advantage to the proposed center would be having room for Pacific Center to expand its services.

"We have to turn down lots of things ... there's not enough room, so we only do limited counseling," Gurucharri said. "Outside groups often ask to use our facility but we don't have the space."

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Pacific Center: A magnet and haven in the East Bay

by David Fraser

Over the years, a lot of people have begun their coming out at the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley.

Many of them tell a similar story, along the lines of, "Well, I found the Victorian building on Telegraph Avenue and I saw the rainbow flag outside and a lot of people on the porch, and I walked up and down the block for an hour and then checked around to see if anyone could see me going in."

Generally, what people have found is that going in helped with coming out.

That is an important legacy of the Pacific Center (no one refers to it by its full name except on official business), which has been in the same gray building for 23 years and is the third oldest continuously operating LGBT center in the United States.

In the East Bay, where the institutional magnets for the queer community are scattered, the Pacific Center is truly an institution. And as with many other nonprofits, it has weathered fiscal and other crises with a small staff – there are currently seven full-time – and 180 volunteers.

After reorganizing in the wake of fiscal ups and downs in the 1990s, "we're trying to stabilize long-term," said Frank Gurucharri, the executive director, who is

white and Hispanic. "Three years ago the budget was around \$124,000."

Now, the center's budget for the fiscal year ending June 30 is around \$320,000, with a projected amount of \$415,000 for next year.

Income from local and state government sources totals around \$154,000, with \$55,000 coming from foundations and about \$50,000 through major donations and fundraising. The remainder primarily comes from donations made by participants at peer support groups, as well as the sliding-scale counseling program, said Ralph Thomas, treasurer of the center's board.

Rent of the building alone runs about \$43,000 per year. "In terms of what we could be charged, that's a good deal," said Gurucharri. "But for that amount we could offer about 1.5 additional staff." He is strongly supporting the proposal to work toward construction of a comprehensive LGBT center in Berkeley [see related story].

Major private funding sources include the Horizons Foundation and the California Endowment.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Gurucharri sketched some of the Pacific Center's services, new and old.

Youth services

Last year the youth program served around 300 LGBTQ youth, supported by grants from the

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities since 1971

LGBT student abuse in schools is a human rights problem, report says

by Katie Szymanski

Our big-name political organizations can put gender on the back burner all they want to, but it's not going to help the next generation of lesbian and gay school kids, according to a report issued by Human Rights Watch last week.

"There's one boy at my school

Gay victims of Holocaust to be honored with grant money

by Katie Szymanski

Sometimes Uncle Sam is more educated than he appears, and last week's federal government grant of \$504,210 to "promote public education and remembrance of the gay men and lesbians who were murdered by the Nazis or otherwise persecuted during the Nazi period," proves it.

The money, distributed from the United States' portion of the International Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund, was bestowed upon the Pink Triangle Coalition, a network of eight gay advocacy organizations in Europe, Israel, and the United States formed in 1998 to remember the Nazi persecution of gay men and lesbians.

"Our coalition is heartened by this opportunity to finally honor the memories of these gay men and lesbians who were killed by the Nazis and we are appreciative to the U.S. government for acknowledging these non-Jewish victims," said Julie Dorf, one of the founders of the Pink Triangle Coalition and former director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

The International Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund was created in 1997 as the final resolution of left-over money taken back from the Nazis after World War II. The United States has distributed \$25 million in total to the fund. Its grant of half a million dollars will be distributed to three projects in Germany and one international project to build educational resources and create a body of materials that tell the stories of what happened to gays and lesbians at the hands of the Nazis. The distribution of the award-winning documentary *Paragraph 175*; a virtual and interactive memorial at the Gay Museum in Berlin; and a memorial book are all part of the future projects planned. ▼

For more information, visit www.iglhr.org/issues/nazi/index.html



who is open, out of the closet. He gets it horrible ... he gets it bad. He's really feminine," said one lesbian student interviewed for *Hatred in the Hallways*, a publication documenting violence and discrimination against LGBT students in U.S. schools. "My ex-girlfriend has it a lot easier. She's part of the 'in crowd'; she's a cheerleader. She plays female roles, she's not butch, doesn't have weird hair, doesn't get people confused."

Gender is a very big factor in homophobia, according to the report, which stated, "It quickly became obvious from our research that the abuse of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth is predicated on the belief that girls and boys must strictly adhere to rigid rules of conduct, dress, and appearances based on their sex. For boys, that means they must be athletic, strong, sexist, and hide their emotions. For girls, that means they must be attentive to

and flirtatious with boys and must accept a subordinate status to boys. Regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, youth who violate these rules are punished by their peers and too often by adults."

Hatred in the Hallways compiled individual stories and statistics to come to one broad conclusion among many: that schools in this country continue to violate the principle of equal protection before the law by condoning intentional and de facto discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. "As a result," according to the report, "another generation of youth is learning that respect for human rights is selective."

The report was hailed by many LGBT groups as groundbreaking for its particular attention to the role of adults in enforcing local policy and defining the inaction of educators as a form of persecu-

tion that constitutes a human rights abuse.

"This report changes the terms of the debate, bringing anti-gay harassment and abuse out of the closet and into our national discussion on school safety and educational access," said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network. "We applaud Human Rights Watch for casting new light on the day-to-day abuse suffered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, and call on policy makers to take immediate steps to make schools safe for all students."

Among the findings of the report were that most openly LGBT students were the target of some form of ongoing harassment, and that in many cases, school administrators encouraged the victims of discrimination and violence to hide their identities instead of punishing the perpetrators.

The report also made some general recommendations for schools and local and national government, including setting standards for intervening and following up on discrimination and harassment so that the burden of protecting student safety does not fall on the victim alone.

"In the absence of clear school district policies and lacking relevant training to fall back on, some teachers are happy to let youth settle matters for themselves," according to the report, which cited an incident at one school where a teacher walked out of the room when other students began throwing things at an openly gay young man. ▼

For more information, to view the report on-line, or to order a copy of *Hatred in the Hallways*, visit the Human Rights Watch Web site at www.hrw.org.

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The Qualiflyer Group

Changes recommended for military justice system

by Bob Roehr

A stellar group of legal experts has recommended sweeping changes in the military legal system that could have significant impact on gay and lesbian service members. Among the recommendations are elimination of provisions dealing with sodomy and adultery, and creating a fairer system of administrative discharges.

The Report of the Commission on the 50th Anniversary of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) was issued on May 31, the anniversary date on which the system took effect. It was sponsored by the National Institute of Military Justice, "a private non-profit organization dedicated to the fair administration of military justice."

The five-member group conducting the study is known by the

shorthand of the "Cox Commission," after its chair, Walter T. Cox III. He has a distinguished career as a jurist within the military, including four years as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

"The code has not been subjected to thorough or external scrutiny for 30 years," noted the opening statement of the report. It "has failed to keep pace with the standards of procedural justice adhered to not only in the United States but in a growing number of countries around the world."

"The commission's work is not intended to substitute for congressional hearings or officially sponsored government studies of military justice, both of which the commissioners would heartily welcome. However, the depth and breadth of the commission's experience should make any observer pause before dismissing its recommendations." Between them,

the five members have more than 150 years cumulative experience within the military and legal systems.

Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, called the report "tremendously credible." SLDN testified at the commission hearing on March 13. He is requesting that SLDN supporters write to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and incoming Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-Michigan) to urge them to adopt the report's recommendations.

Gay activist Frank Kameny said the report "confirms what I've been advocating for a long time." He has served as an adviser to service members facing discharge because of sexual orientation since the 1950s.

Sodomy goes

Perhaps the most controversial

recommendation is to "repeal the rape and sodomy provisions" of the UCMJ, replacing it with language such as that found in the Model Penal Code. The commission noted, "Virtually all such acts could be prosecuted without use of provisions specifically targeting sodomy or adultery."

"The well-known fact that most adulterous or sodomitical acts committed by consenting and often married (to each other) military personnel are not prosecuted at court-martial creates a powerful perception that prosecution of this sexual behavior is treated in an arbitrary, even vindictive manner. This perception has been at the core of military sex scandals of the last decade."

The suggested modifications would still hold service members "accountable for sexual activities that interfere with military missions, undermine morale and trust within military units, or ex-

ploit the hierarchy of the military rank structure."

These provisions have been used to discipline service members involved in the "Tailhook" incident and other examples where heterosexuals have had what the military deemed to be inappropriate sexual relations.

Ironically, gays and lesbians seldom are prosecuted under this provision because it is more difficult to prove sexual acts than it is to show sexual orientation under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as it is currently enforced. Some 90 percent of gay discharges are through administrative procedures rather than court-martials under the UCMJ.

Still, Kameny is pleased to see the recommendation because "now and then there are some very nasty cases that come up" and are prosecuted under the sodomy provisions.

Administrative changes

The current system gives base commanders the power to appoint members of a court-martial and decide certain pretrial issues. The commission called this "an invitation to mischief" that "diverges further from civilian practice" and creates "the greatest barrier to operating a fair system of criminal justice within the armed forces."

It urged that court-martial panels be chosen at random from a pool of eligible service members and that pretrial decisions "be placed within the authority of a military judge."

"This seems like basic jurisprudence," said Osburn. He cited the example of Private First Class Barry Winchell at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1999. Winchell faced anti-gay harassment that ended with him being bludgeoned with a baseball bat while he slept. He died of those injuries a few hours later. Two soldiers were convicted of the murder.

Base commander Major General Robert Clarke made the decision to cut a plea-bargain with one of the murderers. Clarke had reason to seek to keep the case as low profile as possible and some speculated that the plea-bargain worked toward that end.

"You want to avoid the appearance of any kind of conflict of interest in the administration of military law," said Osburn. "To our mind there was a very clear conflict, and General Clarke should not have been the one to make the decision about the plea-bargain itself."

The commission criticized "the impression of unfairness created by the growing use of administrative discharge action in lieu of court-martial." The military has long been an all-volunteer force and the report suggested that discharges become more like being fired as a civilian.

It recommended that the present "arcane hierarchy of discharge categories" be replaced with a simple discharge. That would affect eligibility for entitlements and benefits. It further recommended that discharges be subject to military appellate review, which currently is not the case.

Osburn said one major concern is that infractions that are

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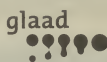
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VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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VIRACEPT®

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human

Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zert® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin®.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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DADT strikes again and again

by Bob Roehr

Pentagon discharges under the anti-gay policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" reached an all-time high of 1,231 in the fiscal year that ended last September. That is a rate of three to four ruined lives a day. The numbers were released by the military on June 1 under pressure from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

Yet even while the total number of discharges went up, the number of people discharged from the military for homosexual acts declined from 171 to 106. Simply being gay or talking about homosexuality was about 12 times more likely to get you discharged than actually having sex with a person of the same gender.

The Army more than doubled its discharges under DADT in 2000, from 271 to 573. SLDN Executive Director Dixon Osburn believes that a large portion of the increase was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in the wake of the July 1999 anti-gay bludgeoning death of Private First Class Barry Winchell while he slept. Two soldiers in his barracks were convicted of the murder.

Osburn said the base commander created an environment where gay service members, or ones who were perceived to be gay regardless of their sexual orientation, feared for their physical safety. "Soldiers are willing to sacrifice their lives for their country but they are not willing to sacrifice themselves to bigotry."

The Navy's discharges edged up from 314 to 358. Nearly a quarter of them (81) were at the Nuclear Power Training Unit and Command at Charleston, South Carolina.

That "surprised" and "alarmed" Osburn. He said they had several cases from the base, but no indication that the scope was so large. The sailors at the base are older, in their second phase of training, and among the brightest. He said he would expect them to be more aware of SLDN and to have been in contact with the organization. SLDN is attempting to contact past clients to see if any pattern of "witch-hunts" emerges.

The Air Force was the only service to see a decline in discharges, from 352 to 177. Some of that may reflect falling back from a surge the previous year, principally at Lackland AFB near San Antonio, Texas. It also may reflect efforts to institute better training on implementing DADT.

Osburn has heard rumors that this year the Air Force had an increase in "entry level separations," which are possible within the first six months of enlistment. It may be that the Air Force simply is shifting the classification of the discharge from DADT to another category, while the underlying motivation for the discharge remains the same. SLDN has requested additional data from the Pentagon.

Has anything changed in the first few months of the Bush administration? "We haven't seen any change, for better or worse," said Osburn. "Everything seems to be happening just as badly as it

had before." He called DADT "a stain that must be removed from our national policy."

Recouping Hensala

John Hensala, a San Francisco psychiatrist discharged from the Air Force for being gay, will have to repay the service \$71,000 for his professional training. The ruling by federal Judge William Alsup is the first by a court on the policy of recoupment, or seeking reimbursement for education and other benefits paid by the military from those who have been discharged. The decision was made public on May 29.

Hensala attended medical school under a military scholarship program and deferred his service for continued advanced training. In November 1994, after receiving notice to report for duty, he sent a letter to his commanding officer saying that he was gay, and did not believe that would affect his ability to perform his duty as a child psychologist in the military.

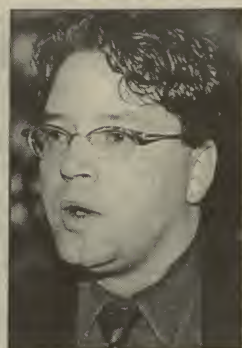
The Air Force disagreed and discharged Hensala, who did not appeal the decision. The matter ended up in court only when the Air Force tried to recover the money it had spent on his medical education. The Air Force argued that Hensala's actions, such as retaining a lawyer, documenting his homosexuality, and proposing to bring his boyfriend along, were not consistent with a willingness to serve under DADT. The judge agreed.

"Our concern is that the court has bought into a more restrictive reading of the recoupment policy than we think was originally in-

tended," said Osburn. It is an interpretation that the Air Force always has followed and is more restrictive than those used by the Navy and Army.

He is concerned that the court rejected Hensala's repeated statements that he was willing to serve, and "relied upon an inquiry officer who simply said, 'I don't believe you,' and recommended recoupment. This gives at least a small green light to rolling back some of the protections that service members have faced when discharged or disenrolled after coming out as gay."

"At the same time, the court has provided a bit of a road map, which the Air Force has not. It says, 'here are the factors that we are going to look at to see if there is a sincere desire to serve,'" said Osburn. "The court was pretty



SLDN's Dixon Osburn

Careful in saying that there was not any one factor that was determinative of recoupment" but rather a pattern of multiple factors.

Hensala and his attorney are studying whether or not to appeal the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. ▼

Military justice

◀ page 16

subject to court-martial "often are shifted to the administrative system because there are no rules of evidence there. On the administrative side it is basically a 'kangaroo court' because anything and everything can come in, there are just no procedural safeguards whatsoever."

The commission also recommended examination of the "Feres Doctrine," a principle established 50 years ago by a judge, that holds the government immune to lawsuits for injury "incident to military service." The

courts have since ruled that "almost everything is incident to military service," said Osburn, "including murder and kidnapping by fellow service members."

This was why Winchell's mother could not successfully sue for the wrongful death of her son due to the government's negligence in failing to end anti-gay violence.

The Bush administration can implement some of the changes on its own, but certain others, such as repeal of the sodomy provisions of Article 125, would require legislation. Osburn has no sense of the willingness of either the Pentagon or Congress to consider making the recommended changes. ▼

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Speakers



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Jon Cohen is an award-winning journalist who has covered infectious diseases for 15 years. His book, *Shots in the Dark: the Wayward Search for an AIDS Vaccine*, was published by W.W. Norton in 2001.

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or call 415/597-UCSF (8273)
space is limited

The forum and lunch are free, but contributions to the partner organizations are encouraged. Suggested amount is \$35. Donation information will be available at the forum.

For more information, contact
Debra Kent 415/597-9370

PARTNERS: • Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) • Conant Foundation • Horizons Foundation
• International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) • San Francisco AIDS Foundation

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Jeffords's switch affects gay issues

by Bob Roehr

The decision last month by Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords, one of the most pro-gay Republicans in Congress, to leave that party to become an independent means that control of the Senate shifts to the Democrats this week, as Jeffords will vote with the Democrats to organize the Senate. It is the first time that control of that body has changed hands other than through a regular November election.

There likely will be minimal effect on the outcome of votes on the floor of the Senate. The primary effect of Democratic control will be to set the agenda, both on the floor and as chairs of committees, deciding what issues to focus on, when to hold hearings, and schedule votes. Gay interests are likely to be delayed during reorganization but the chance of passing gay-positive bills later in the session seems to have increased, if only modestly. The House of Representatives has not changed.

Jeffords proclaimed his adherence to fundamental principles of "moderation, tolerance, [and] fiscal responsibility" at a May 24 news conference in Burlington, Vermont. He acknowledged an increasingly conservative tone to the Republican Party and more pressure to be loyal to leadership from a White House now in Republican hands.

"Looking ahead, I can see more and more instances where I'll disagree with the president on very fundamental issues — the issues of choice, the direction of the judiciary, tax and spending decisions, missile defense, energy and the environment, and a host of other issues large and small," said Jeffords.

He concluded, "In order to best represent my state of Vermont, my own conscience, and principles I have stood for my whole life, I will leave the Republican Party and become an independent."

Gay Vermonter Steven Swayne called Jeffords's speech "shattering in its honest transparency. Never have I heard a politician articulate so clearly his thoughts and feelings."

Perhaps aiding Jeffords in his decision was distress over the fact that social conservatives opposed to gay civil union legislation — passed last year under pressure from the state Supreme Court — have become more prominent in the Vermont Republican Party. Under the slogan "Take Back Vermont" they challenged several incumbents who voted for the bill, defeating them in the party primary.

Voter reaction to Jeffords's decision has largely been positive. He was re-elected to a third term last November with about 70 percent of the vote, running against openly gay Democrat Ed Flanagan, who barely squeaked out a primary victory. Vermont's only representative in the U.S. House is independent and former Socialist Bernie Sanders.

Reactions

"It's stranger than fiction," said Winnie Stachelberg with a laugh. The political director of the Human Rights Campaign sees the change in Senate leadership as "a good sign and an important step for the issues that we have been working on for years. It has been the Republican leadership in both the House and the Senate that has continued to block our effort to pass bills."



Senator James Jeffords

She pointed to hate crimes legislation which last year passed the Senate 57-42. That vote included 13 Republicans, "so it is not for lack of support by Republicans." She pledged "to continue to support the Republicans who support us."

Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) led a February news conference that introduced an omnibus civil rights bill containing the major pieces of gay oriented legislation that HRC has proposed.

Stachelberg called Democratic whip Harry Reid (Nevada), the party's number two leader in the Senate, "a quiet soldier in our battle for equality. Few people know what an ally he has been of the gay and lesbian community." Reid was involved in the talks with Jeffords leading up to his switch, and is expected to give up what would have been his chairmanship of the Environment and Public Works Committee to Jeffords.

The change in the Senate "will serve as a brake on Bush's more radical proposals," said Tim McFeeley, political director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "It will mean that Bush's nominees, particularly for the judiciary, will receive more careful scrutiny."

Log Cabin Republicans political director Kevin Ivers said, "It was clear that Jeffords agonized over this." Ivers was sorry for the decision but said they would continue to work with the senator. "It doesn't change our mission and our work."

Rich Tafel, Log Cabin's executive director, reminded the party, "A majority is built through inclusion and outreach in a diverse coalition that works together."

Some political observers believe that Republicans lost control of the Senate largely because some of their most conservative and least gay-supportive incumbents, such as John Ashcroft (Missouri) and Slade Gorton (Washington), lost their bids for re-election. Others feel that the Bush White House and the current Senate leadership must take the blame for losing Jeffords.

Regaining control of the Senate "gives the Democrats the ability to demagogue more effectively," said Ivers. He added that many Republicans are "furious" with incoming Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) because they will lose their chairmanships and staff perks. "I can't imagine how he could stay on [as minority leader]," Ivers added.

With Democrats in power, it looks like Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) will become chairman of the committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) is expected to

chair the Judiciary Committee.

One interesting question will be how the committees are restructured from their current 50-50 split of membership. It may be that a Republican is removed or a Democrat added to each. Money for staffs also will be redistributed.

Former Republican Congressman Steve Gunderson believes that the change in the Senate will result in increased funding and legislation on domestic issues. He also sees "the potential and likelihood for partisanship and much more difficult negotiations at the end of the session on a range of issues."

He believes that both parties — Republicans in the House and Democrats in the Senate — will try to move legislation that motivates their constituency bases as midterm elections draw nearer, with both "pressing the other to either respond or be held accountable."

Gunderson speculated that Democrats might draw out their reorganization of the Senate, in part to justify delay in confirming Bush administration nominees to second and third tier political appointments "and delay the formal transition of power."

"The real interesting question is whether the White House attempts to move to the center with its policy and appointments," he said. Initial rhetoric in late May from the president and one of his top political advisers, Karen Hughes, did not point in that direction.

The gay agenda

Jeffords was going to be a lead sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Stachelberg "is unclear whether the bill will be introduced in mid-June as we had thought." Kennedy, as chair of the committee, seems likely to continue to play a leading role, though the search for appropriate Republican co-sponsors may delay things.

Gunderson rates the likelihood of action on hate crimes legislation and ENDA as "much greater" in the Senate than it was previously. It likely will boil down to what gets added as amendments to an appropriations bill to avoid getting bogged down in a hostile committee in the House.

A more immediate concern is an amendment concerning the Boy Scouts and gays that is attached to an education bill. The measure passed the House on May 23 on a voice vote.

Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina) has proposed a similar amendment in the Senate. Ivers argued that the Senate prefers clean bills without amendments and so it was not likely to come out of that chamber. The House amendment then could be eliminated in conference. He believes the change in control has only enhanced the likelihood of this outcome.

"I don't know that it necessarily changes a thing" on HIV issues, said Bill Arnold, who pointed out that AIDS has bipartisan support on Capitol Hill. The most pressing aspect is a shortfall in current fiscal year funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Arnold, a lobbyist for the ADAP Working Group, said that over the last week there has been a growing sense in Congress that there will be a supplemental appropriations bill. If that is the case, he has been assured that ADAP's needs will get a fair hearing. ▼

Science and politics at the CDC: Playing with AIDS infection numbers

analysis by Bob Roehr

In a May 31 telephone conference call with reporters, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention talked how "explosive HIV incidence rates" among gay and bisexual young men, particularly among African American men who have sex with men (MSM) are "alarming" and "of critical public health importance."

Mainstream media accounts dutifully relayed the alarmist message without looking too closely at the shaky epidemiology on which it is based. Had they done so, they might have come to the conclusion that the news conference was more about politics than about science.

CDC researcher Linda Valleroy led the team that conducted the study. She explained that while it is important to understand the prevalence of HIV, or how many people are infected with the virus, "It is even more important to understand the rate of new infections or incidence." This helps target resources to where they are most needed.

In February the CDC released "preliminary data on HIV prevalence" from the Young Men's Survey, an ongoing study since 1994 that looks at gay and bisexual men ages 23 to 29 in six cities - Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, and Seattle. It showed an overall infection rate of 13 percent, with a "very high" rate of 32 percent among the African American men sampled.

The new data was the second part of that survey, conducted in 1998-2000. It used a STARHS assay to determine annual incidence of new infections. STARHS measures two different antibodies to HIV. One antibody appears about a month after infection while the second takes at least three months to develop. If only the first antibody is present, the researcher knows that the infection is relatively recent.

Valleroy said that among those they tested, the overall HIV incidence was 4.4 percent. The rate varied tremendously between groups. The rate for white gay men was 2.5 percent, for Hispanics 3.5 percent, and for African Americans 14.7 percent.

It means that for every 100 African American MSMs that they tested, 15 became infected with HIV during the last year. She called these "explosive HIV incidence rates." Valleroy said the 4.4 percent overall incidence rate is similar to that seen in southern and eastern Africa in the early 1990s, immediately prior to the rapid growth of HIV in that region to about 20 percent of the total population.

She said that American data from surveys conducted in the early 1990s indicated a 2 to 3 percent overall rate of infection among MSMs. A 4.4 percent rate is comparable to what was seen in the U.S. in the mid-1980s at the peak of new infections. There is no comparable earlier data on African American MSMs, only the more general figures that include

all MSMs.

"These data, combined with recent outbreaks of STDs among MSMs in many cities suggest that HIV incidence may be increasing in this population. And that the epidemic among men who have sex with men in general, and among African American men who have sex with men in particular, is growing worse," she said.

Combing data from several studies, Valleroy concluded that new infections "increase substantially between adolescence and the early 20s. These findings underscore the need to reach each generation of gay and bisexual men early as they enter adolescence, and to sustain these efforts as they grow older."

Count the ways

One underlying principle of statistics is that things tend to even out with larger sets of numbers, while a smaller sample carries greater risk that a few unrepresentative data points can dramatically swing the outcome one way or another. That is exemplified by the "confidence interval (CI)," a range on either side of the statistic where the researcher feels 95 percent certain of the results. The smaller the range of the CI, the greater the accuracy of the statistic, the larger the CI the fuzzier the math. Larger sets of data have smaller CIs and are more accurate.

At first glance the 2,942 young MSMs in the survey is an impressive number. But from that large pool, only 38 were identified as recent infections using STARHS. Because white MSMs constituted the greatest portion of those in Valleroy's research, their incidence rate of 2.5 percent had a CI of 1.4 to 4.6 percent. Hispanics had a 3.5 percent incidence and a CI of 1.4 to 8.6. But because the number of African American MSMs sampled was the smallest of the survey subsets, their incidence of 14.7 percent had a CI of 7.9 to 27.1 percent. That is a huge range.

Valleroy was careful to say in her presentation, "I must underline that the sample size of African Americans is small and that these findings are preliminary. However, we believe these data are of critical public health importance and feel it is urgent to release them now."

The CDC did not release any other numbers, such as how many of those 38 recent infections fell into each of the three racial/ethnic groupings, or how incidence compared between cities. Most - but not all - of the blood samples have been analyzed and tabulated. Valleroy hopes to have all of the data and have it published by the end of the year. In other words, the data that was released was incomplete.

Helene Gayle, who heads up HIV programs at the CDC, said they have "done some statistical corrections" to compensate for the incomplete work, and that affects the confidence intervals.

In an article on the research published by CDC in the June 1 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the authors were careful to note "at least three limitations" of the study. Among them are ques-



Dr. Helene Gayle of the CDC

tions as to how representative the sample is of MSMs. That is a particularly important issue among young men of color who are less likely to identify as gay or bisexual and thus are more difficult for researchers to identify and recruit into the study.

Valleroy explained how they tried to reach MSMs who do not identify as gay or bisexual, and seemed to sigh when she said, "We obviously couldn't get to the people who were hidden ... we did the best we could."

Gayle added, "The information that we have does not suggest that men who self-identify would necessarily be at greater risk" for HIV. She suggested the opposite, perhaps those who do self-identify as gay or bisexual are more knowledgeable about the risks of HIV and how to protect themselves.

Change and stability

The CDC estimates that 40,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year. It is the same number that they have used since 1992. But if you listen to the various different things that the CDC says, the numbers just don't seem to add up.

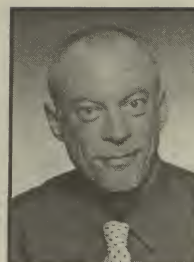
Men who have sex with men are still the largest single group (46 percent) of those with AIDS. The CDC says that the rate is explosively high among young black men who have sex with men and less high among Latinos, according to the six-city survey.

CDC does not argue that new infections are falling in gay white men, quite the opposite, citing increases in sexually transmitted diseases, it is worried that new infections are increasing among young gay men. So it does not seem to be a seesaw where increased infections among MSMs of color are balanced by declines in white MSMs.

At the same time we are told that women have the highest rate of increase of AIDS infections of any group. Children have always been a very small portion of total infections, while infection through injection drug use continues at a high level.

With all of these claimed increases going on and little talk of decreases, why has the overall estimate of annual infections remained the same since 1992? When pressed on whether that estimate of 40,000 new infections a year needs to be revised upward,

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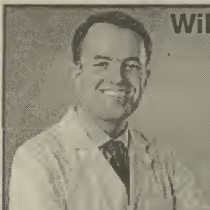
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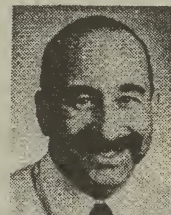
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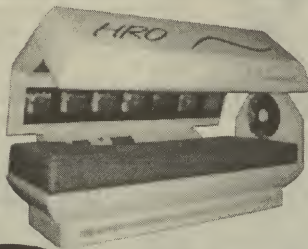
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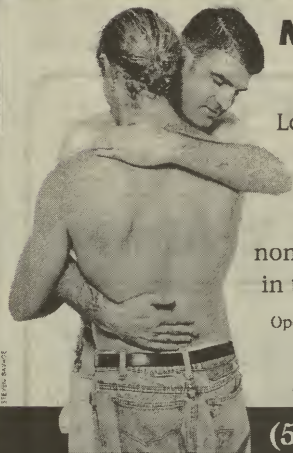
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Gay filmmaker seeks help for video on beach attack in Kauai

by David Fraser

A gay California filmmaker is planning a documentary short about the attack two weeks ago on gay campers in Kauai, where the incident occurred. He is asking for contributions to help pay for costs of making the documentary.

Roland Torres, of Modesto, said he would shoot footage in Kauai, where the incident occurred. He is asking for contributions to help pay for costs of making the documentary.

Torres, of Red Soapbox Visual Media, told the Bay Area Reporter that he had received an in-kind contribution of a broadcast video camera and lighting equipment worth \$5,000 to be used in Kauai, and would donate his own time.

But, he said, "it takes a committed and supportive community to effect long-lasting positive change. We need an additional

\$5,000 to help pay for costs that include travel, logistics, tape stock, communicating with national media, and preliminary post-production."

Torres, who is Hawaiian born, plans to fly to Hawaii next week.

A judge in Lihue, Kauai, has ordered the alleged attackers to stand trial for the attack at Polihale State Park, a popular spot for straight and gay campers. Eamon Carolan, 18, and Orion Macomber, 19, are facing charges including first-degree attempted murder, which carries a mandatory life sentence without parole, according to local media.

Torres said a friend of his was at the campsite and witnessed the tent burning. Subsequently the attackers tried to run down some of the 20 gay men who were helping the victims, he said. "The attackers drove their vehicle back and forth three times; they were trying to kill them," Torres added.

He said Hawaii's hate crimes bill is "sitting on the governor's desk right now, and this underscores the need for this bill."

Torres added that this was not a case of mainlanders coming to Hawaii and being "rude" with their sexuality. Rather, he said, it was an attack by local Hawaiians on local Hawaiian gays. Defense attorneys said their clients saw the rainbow flag at the campsite and reacted to this "flaunting" of gay sexuality.

Rural Kauai is "like rural Tennessee" when it comes to gay issues and HIV prevention, Torres said. Even with the attack, it took 20 campers to convince the police to take action, he said.

For more information, call Roland Torres at (209) 602-6880, or e-mail roland@redsoapbox.com. Contributions to the project can be made to Red Soapbox Visual Media, P.O. Box 1278, Modesto, CA 95353. ▼

Berkeley

◀ page 14

Moore enthused

At the People's State of the City gathering, Peralta College board member Darryl Moore commented, "It is fitting that Berkeley could be the first city to have a LGBT community center conceived in and dedicated to multicultural inclusiveness, feminist principles, premier disabled accessibility, and the most environmentally sustainable facility you have ever seen."

As to the housing, Worthington told the B.A.R.: "You can't say people have to be lesbian or gay to live here; that's not our intention. But for housing in a building with dozens of lesbian and gay community groups, you'd expect people would probably be pretty comfortable" in that environment.

Asked how the proposed cen-

ter differs from the LGBT Community Center Project under construction in San Francisco, Worthington said, "We have a heavy emphasis on multicultural approaches, including feminism. We're looking at people having jobs in the offices, a sort of all-inclusive approach, and of course housing."

"Here, there's no debate about preservation as there was in San Francisco. Some of the people involved [in Berkeley] are active in preservation. We want to build something that will become a landmark."

He said the \$25,000 budget request is for preliminary planning, and to bring potential partners together. So far, in addition to official groups, there are "dozens of people offering to help, signing up to be part of the project."

Planning would help establish how many groups are interested, and how much space they would need. Worthington added: "We also are looking at how to make it

transit friendly, probably located near a major traffic corridor. Then there's zoning issues to explore" for a mixed-use site.

He said that it was premature to do a cost estimate, but added that one local contractor gave him a ballpark figure "off the top of his head" of \$5 million for construction costs, assuming the land was in hand via donation by private sources or the city.

This project is "not just a random nonprofit [group]," Worthington said. "The idea is to offer a permanent home to lesbian and gay community groups so they don't have to pay high rent and be insecure" in their futures.

He stressed that the project depends on council approval. First it must make it to the budget "wish list" in early June. There will be a public hearing on the budget on June 19 at 7 p.m. at the Berkeley City Council, Old City Hall, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. A final vote for next year's budget is scheduled for June 26. ▼

Pacific Center

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cities of Berkeley and Oakland.

"It's a new service that's really taken off under our youth activities coordinator, Derrick Miller-Handley," said Gurucharri. "It's really alive, a beautiful program."

Miller-Handley, an African American, got 70-80 young people to come to the center on a Saturday afternoon a couple of weeks ago. They were treated to a party with a diversity theme, featuring different types of music and atmosphere in each room.

The party drew people from San Jose and San Rafael, as well as many from the East Bay.

Gurucharri noted that the Pacific Center received special funding two years ago for its after-school and Saturday programs. "Those are for poverty-stricken youth, not all of the LGBT youth in the area," he said. "A lot of middle-class youth are being kicked out of their homes [after coming out] but we can't serve them" due to funding and space limitations.

Domestic violence

The newly hired program director, Lawrence McClung, was starting work this week. "I think this is the first time we've had

someone with an MSW [masters of social work] in this position," said Gurucharri.

McClung, a female-to-male white transgender, specializes in dealing with same-gender domestic violence. He will begin to address this issue in the center's peer groups, and counseling. Eventually the center hopes to create a specific program to deal with the problem, Gurucharri said.

Counseling

Pacific Center offers individual, couples, and group counseling, primarily by graduate students in training or on internships. Supervising the counselors is Josepha Molina, a Latina marriage and family therapist with a doctorate in psychology.

Looking at the ethnic and sexual diversity among the full-time staff, Gurucharri said, "We're trying to change the culture at the center, and we're working to create a LGBT community that is inclusive of many cultures, so that people can see their own faces reflected in the staff."

HIV/AIDS services

Among the services are outreach to high-risk persons, outpatient counseling and peer support groups, and a library. People affected by HIV, including partners,

families, and caregivers, are eligible for services on a sliding scale.

Peer support groups

Long the mainstay of the center, the peer support groups are often what brings people in year after year. The Monday night gay men's rap groups cover a wide range of topics and are facilitated. Dating among men with differing HIV statuses, for instance, was a discussion topic this week. For many newcomers exploring their sexuality, groups have provided a safe place to come out, if they choose to.

Other groups include Debtors Anonymous, Lesbian/Gay Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous, People of Color on the FTM Spectrum, HIV-positive men, women's rap, a bisexual women's group, a men's group for those married or previously married, and groups targeting transgenders, seniors, lesbians of color, the young queer men's group MARS, and incest survivors. ▼

The Pacific Center for Human Growth can be reached at (510) 548-8283. The Web site is www.pacificcenter.org, and the street address is 2712 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. For counseling information, call (510) 548-8283.

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◀ page 1

"At least before I leave this job as mayor of San Francisco, I want to see both parts of the report as sunny," Brown added. "I intend to see that we manage this future in the way we want. I want to get volunteers in record numbers; I want



The California AIDS Ride left San Francisco Sunday, June 3, en route to Los Angeles. Above, riders reflect on those lost to AIDS.

Tuesday's remembrance at City Hall capped several days of events

Other events held in the city included a service at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, which featured a performance by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and a "die-in" demonstration on the streets of the Castro that saw people outline their bodies with chalk to call attention to the 18,600 San Franciscans who have died of the disease. ▼

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◀ page 21

First, the 20th “anniversary” of HIV was about to occur and CDC

And finally, Congress is about to tackle spending bills for next year. Waiting for publication would take too long for CDC to put forward its best case for more money for HIV prevention activities. Gayle made sure to make the pitch for more bucks at the news conference. "Prevention needs to be expanded, we can't just shift from one population to another." ▼

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Downfall of AIDS drug expanded access

by Matt Sharp, *Survive AIDS Writers Pool*

In this 20th year of the epidemic we know as AIDS, one of the most important accomplishments of activists was to make HIV treatments available as soon as they became known, despite their availability. Activist pressure forced the Food and Drug Administration to streamline the bureaucratic drug approval process and provide new investigational AIDS drugs before they had completed rigorous clinical trials. At a time when AIDS drugs were few and far between, when people with AIDS were desperate for treatments, there needed to be a mechanism to safely access new drugs. People with AIDS simply could not wait the typical 10 to 15 years for a drug to be approved. So, activists pushed the FDA for broader access to drugs that had proven safe, if not yet effective, in order to give people a chance at slowing HIV. Thus, expanded access was born.

At least on paper, different access programs were soon developed to widen availability to people that may not qualify for studies and who desperately needed new drugs. The programs, overseen by the FDA, are called "treatment IND" (investigational new drug), "parallel track," and "open protocols." Whatever the programs are called, and whatever they have evolved to be, they are all basically used to broaden access to investigational agents be-

fore rigorous trials are completed.

Codification (official regulation) of the programs didn't happen until 1987. And even today there are misunderstandings with the programs, the time-consuming paperwork, and the reluctance of the pharmaceutical industry to participate. Activists have had to monitor each new drug on the radar screen and lobby for wider access. Drug companies don't seem to want to offer free unproved drugs on their own mostly because the programs are formidable, cost an enormous amount of money, provide little data to further the new drug application for final approval, and there are possible liabilities involved.

In the earlier days the parallel track program for d4T or Stavudine, offered 12,000 patients free drug. The expanded access program for 3TC or Hivid, offered drug to nearly 30,000 patients. Protease inhibitor expanded access programs, however, were much more limited in scope — if they existed at all — as the companies began using the programs as a means to promote their drugs right before they became approved. Unfortunately, today's access programs are nowhere near their original intent and have become watered down, evolving into mere public relations campaigns for the companies and little help for those who need new options.

However, the number of new approved drugs that have become available has reduced the desperation for investigational agents, though those who are long-term survivors still need new drugs.

One recent expanded access program is a perfect example of how drug companies have limited their programs, timing them toward a targeted approval date.

Gilead opened its expanded access for tenofovir, its new antiviral, in January. But it wasn't until May that the company began admitting more people because activists reported slow enrollment from patients across the country.

Showing poor timing, the company announced shortly thereafter the submission of a new drug application to the FDA, signaling that the drug was near approval. That left only a few months for the program to enroll a few people, certainly much less than if the company had been on the ball. Gilead has no doubt had a difficult time with expanded access programs in the past, and is perhaps trying to save money by offering limited access so near the date of tenofovir's approval. But this is one case of expanded access gone bad, for the detriment of everyone concerned.

Another promising drug, T-20, written about in past B.A.R. columns, has such a dismal prospect for wider access that activists are asking the company not

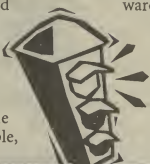
to even call the program "expanded access." Trimeris, in a partnership with Roche, has taken on a massive scale-up project to make just as much drug needed to get through studies and provide data. The drug is apparently extraordinarily difficult and expensive to make and not many production facilities exist to churn out even enough drug for studies. So the company has been extremely delicate with activists, forewarning them about the production difficulties. An access program for a drug in this class, or other drugs today, would not have to be the size of d4T or 3TC programs in the past. Nevertheless, this drug is probably the most promising on the horizon and Trimeris must do everything in its power to make enough drug for as many people as possible. Approval may happen before most people will be able to access the drug.

Despite the pitiful state of expanded access, at least the FDA has sped up the drug approval process for agents that affect life-threatening diseases. Drugs that are studied for these conditions

can be approved much earlier than in the past. AIDS activists were instrumental in forcing the change in licensing so that it wouldn't take years to get access to a life saving therapy.

Recently the FDA announced new codification for its compassionate use programs, which is another way to access drugs. Clarification for the programs needed to happen, and now compassionate use along with expanded access may help thousands who are in the late stages of HIV disease.

With wide availability of HIV drugs today, some feel there is less need for expanded access programs as there once was. Some feel that all the drug access we've had before research is completed has led to resistance and drug toxicities in thousands who could have waited. But others think they wouldn't be here today had they not been able to string along treatments as soon as they became available. Now, there is a gap in investigational drugs, so people that are resistant and beginning to fail will need new options, and more — and therefore better — access. ▼



Survive AIDS

Young South African AIDS activist dies

by Liz Highleyman

On June 1, young South African AIDS activist Nkosi Johnson died; he was 12 years old. Nkosi developed AIDS-related brain damage last December, and died in his sleep last Friday morning.

Nkosi, who contracted HIV perinatally, became well-known both in South Africa and throughout the world for speaking openly about his infection in a country where stigma against the disease remains strong. He was adopted at age 2; his birth mother died of AIDS-related causes in 1997. Four years ago, Nkosi and his adoptive mother, Gail Johnson, waged a battle to allow the boy to attend public school despite his infection. That battle resulted in the implementation of HIV non-discrimination policies in schools, and was the subject of the South African television documentary *Nkosi's Mission*.

Nkosi grabbed the world's attention last summer when he addressed the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, asking for acceptance and support for people with the disease. "We are all human beings. We are normal," Nkosi told conference delegates. "We have needs just like everyone else. Don't be afraid of us. We are the same." The young activist also advocated on behalf of AIDS orphans like himself and promoted the use of condoms to reduce HIV transmission.

Nkosi became associated with political controversy in South Africa when he encouraged President Thabo Mbeki to provide antiretroviral drugs to HIV-positive pregnant women to reduce the chances of vertical transmission to their infants. Mbeki has been hesitant to provide these drugs due to issues of cost, the lack of medical infrastructure, and a belief that factors other than HIV contribute to AIDS in Africa.

Some South Africans have expressed concern that Nkosi was used as a political pawn and that



Nkosi Johnson at last year's 13th International AIDS Conference.

international publicity deprived him of a normal childhood. But according to South African Constitutional Court Judge Edwin Cameron, who has himself become well-known for speaking openly about being HIV positive, Nkosi chose to be an activist. Nkosi was "a person with maturity far beyond his years," said Cameron. "He had an awareness of the threat to his life and the importance of his life in lessening the threat to other people with AIDS."

Public figures and AIDS advocates worldwide expressed their admiration for Nkosi and their sadness at his death; politicians and trade unions sent condolences. According to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has made AIDS one of his key priorities, "He was a very courageous young man, a courageous child. ... We have lost a voice." Said former South African President Nelson Mandela, "It is a great pity that this young man has died. He was very bold. ... Children such as Nkosi Johnson should be enjoying a life filled with laughter and happiness. On a frightening scale, HIV/AIDS is replacing that joy, laughter and happiness with paralyzing pain and trauma."

A memorial service for Nkosi was held on June 6 at a large soccer stadium. According to Gail Johnson, a foundation will be established in Nkosi's honor to raise money for AIDS orphans and mothers and children with AIDS. ▼

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STOP AIDS PROJECT

design and illustration by Zanne deJanvier

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. No poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Peter Edward Maxwell

June 16, 1963 — May 25, 2001



Peter Maxwell passed away on May 25, 2001 in San Francisco.

Peter is survived by his partner and best friend Enrique Massa, his loving parents Pete and Helen Maxwell, his brother Gary Maxwell, and many dear friends.

Peter was born in La Mirada, California and later moved to San Francisco where he lived since 1988.

In May 1992 he graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and went to SFSU for his Master in Sculpture. Peter was a big enthusiast of the SF Gay and

Lesbian Film Festival where a short film of his showed in 1993 called *Helms = Death*.

His passion for Bonsai took him to many workshops and conventions around the state and Hawaii to grow a large collection of trees which were his spiritual reward. He served as a member of the board of directors of the Bonsai Society of San Francisco.

Peter fought AIDS for over 15 years, living life to the fullest with incredible courage and determination. His dedication to the rewards of service, both in Alcoholics Anonymous and to the HIV community made him an advocate for understanding and compassion.

A memorial service will be held on June 16 at 4 p.m. at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

Donations in Peter's memory may be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund, 1540 Market St., #320, San Francisco, CA 94102.



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Bears of San Francisco on May 31 distributed a total of \$24,000 to three organizations. The money was raised at the International Bear Rendezvous held in San Francisco in February. Above, Bear SF representatives join staff from Dolores Street Community Services, the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, and Home Care Companions. Each agency received \$8,000.

Jane Philomeni/Cland

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Targé marché

by Jim Provenzano

Martina sells credit cards. The L.A. Sparks sell basketball in lesbian bars. Cute Corey Johnson sells sofas. A smiling Bruce Hayes sells Coors.

Wait a second. Coors? On the heels of yet another highly researched feature article in another gay publication, and several previous investigative stories proving the less than hidden ties between Coors, the Castle Rock Foundation, the Reich Wing Heritage Foundation

and its virtual embedding into the White House, Olympic swimmer and multiple medalist Bruce Hayes, currently a resident of Atlanta, sports his Gay Games medals in full-page ads in *Out* and other gay glossies, which also feature cigarette and other alcohol ads; more than in non-gay "lifestyle" magazines.

Gay Games is mentioned in small type at the bottom of the ad, leaving little doubt as to which beverage's banner ads might as well be plastered all over the Federation of Gay Games site, or prominently sold at Gay Games

VI in Sydney, where the Aussie beer of choice, Foster's Lager, has yet to out-bid Coors as "exclusive brew."

Drink up, gay America. Smoke 'em if you got 'em. Who cares if your community has the highest cancer and alcoholism rate outside of a few former Soviet republics?

Anheuser-Busch, equally right wing, but less studied, includes openly gay men in its latest campaign, and has a greater success rate in sponsoring sports/alcohol tie-ins.

While Martina's credit card donates a percentage of profits to gay causes, beer profits remain much more questionable.

Cory, you may recall, offers visions of gay-tolerant comfort; in 1999 he came out to his Massachusetts football team to little controversy and media accolades. Little if anything questionable can be said about the young Johnson's endorsement of Mitchell Gold sofas.

The boy's gotta pay for college somehow.

Spark plugs

Without beer, sofas, or anything but sport to sell, the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA began marketing their team to the Southern California lesbian community.

Girl Bar Los Angeles, the site of the June event, is the nation's largest lesbian club with about 12,000 members. The rally was held at the Factory, a West Hollywood nightclub. This was the first openly gay group to be the focus of such a campaign.

"It came about through conversations with Penny Toler [the Sparks' general manager] and Michael Harris [the team's advertising director]," said Girl Bar Los Angeles co-founder Sandy Sachs in an article in the *Los Angeles Times*.

"There are a lot of women who don't know who the Sparks are, and the Sparks felt this was a way to reach out to this particular market."

Almost 100 tickets were sold within the first week of the announcement of the event.

Joe McCormack, vice president of finance for the Los Angeles Lakers, has played an active role in marketing the Sparks.

"We want to market this basketball team to fans whoever they might be, be they an inner-city youth basketball team or someone of an alternate lifestyle," McCormack told the *Times*.

ple who have alternative lifestyles.

We've got plenty of room for anybody who wants to watch us play." The Cleveland Rockers, the Sparks recent opposing team, will not be joining other Women's National Basketball Association teams' attempt to woo lesbian fans.

"Our marketing is exclusive to women of all kinds," said Rockers vice president of communications Ed Markey, "We don't pare it down to fine points such as that."

The fine point being, take what you can get, GLBT sports community.

We may not have basic civil rights, but at least we've got some honest marketing amid all those ads.

Scrum and Coca-Cola

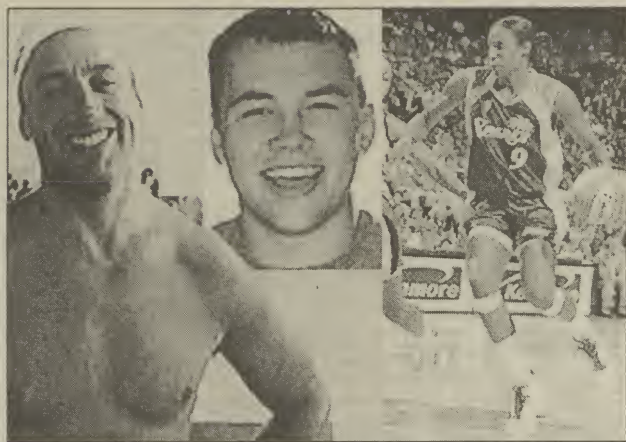
If Coors sours your bleacher thirst, consider Coca-Cola as an equally problematic beverage. The sugary soda conglomerate, a possible sponsor for Atlanta's Gay Games VI proposal, was recently forced to pay off a multimillion dollar fine in a lawsuit that claimed African-American employees were deliberately slighted in hiring and staff promotions.

In less corporatized gay sports news out of the refreshment stand and onto the playing field, the San Francisco Fog Rugby Club participated in the first international multicultural gay rugby tournament held in Washington, D.C., over the weekend May 17-20. In addition to the Fog, the Washington Renegades home team hosted competitors from England (Manchester, and London), Argentina, Australia, South Africa, Venezuela, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Over 25 S.F. Fog players made the trip from San Francisco for a weekend of rugby, camaraderie, and fun. The teams played both 7's and 15's - traditional rugby involves 15 players, while a faster paced game involves seven.

Coach Kevin Waizenhofer was very proud of the team's performance. "The guys not only played the best rugby to date, they expe-

next page ►



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Sports Complex

◀ previous page

rienced the unique bond between all rugby players. I'm happy with the progress we have made and honored to coach such outstanding men."

The Fog defeated the Washington Renegades in an exhibition match 19-0. Fog rugby will take most of June off, and then start the summer 7's season in July, with the regular 15's season training re-starting in September.

In October 2000, Fog Rugby became an official member of the Northern California Rugby Union, the local area governing body for rugby clubs in Northern California. Fog Rugby competes in Division III play.

For more information about the team, becoming a player, coach, or a fan, please visit the Web site at <http://www.sffog.org> or call the club hotline at (415) 820-GUTS (4887).

Gina-Cide

Bay Area resident and three-time women's boxing champion Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi, featured in this column recently, will fight Britt van Buskirk in a 10-round match for the vacant Women's International Boxing Association (WIBA) Junior Middleweight World Championship at the "Brawl at the Hall III," Saturday, July 14 in Hayward.

This title bout between the two seasoned female fighters is one of five matches on the evening's card, featuring an impressive lineup of local fighters. Each has been boxing for more than 20 years.

Guidi, a San Leandro resident, holds a professional record of 15-1-1 (15 wins, one loss, and one draw) with 6 knockouts. She currently holds the IWBF (International Women's Boxing Federation) World Middleweight Championship, and also has won several other titles. Guidi remains the only openly lesbian boxer in the world.

As an amateur, she won the U.S.A. Box Offs in California in addition to a Golden Gloves Championship, and held an undefeated amateur record of 12-0-0 9

KOs. She was the subject of an independent film, *Red Rain*, which has received great critical acclaim and audience interest.

Van Buskirk has a record of 18 wins, 8 losses, and 2 draws, with 12 wins coming by knockout. Van Buskirk, who currently lives in Illinois, was on the first all-female boxing card in July of 1979. In 1995 she opened her own gym, and has trained both male and female fighters and promoted amateur boxing.

The main event of the evening will be a Super Middleweight match between Santa Rosa's Danny Chavez and Olympian Todd Foster of Montana.

Weigh-ins will be held on July 14 at Ricky's Sports Bar in San Leandro. "Brawl at the Hall III" takes place at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Boulevard, in Hayward. Doors open at 5:50 p.m., fights start at 7 p.m.

Tickets to the event are still available for \$50 ringside, \$35 VIP seating, and \$20 standing room only. Tickets to "Brawl at the Hall III" can be purchased with credit cards by calling Big Palooka Promotions at (510) 481-9300, or at Gallagher's Pub in Dublin, California. For more information on this or upcoming fight cards, visit www.bigpalooka.com.

Abs FAB

Members of the Golden Gate Wrestling Club will strut their stuff and offer in-house freestyle and fun-style wrestling at Club FAB this Saturday, June 9, starting at 8 p.m. Raffles, T-shirts, live wrestling, videos, and general amusement will precede a night of dancing. Last year's event was a barrel of fun. Club FAB is the big club in Russian River's Guerneville at 16135 Main Street, (707) 869-5708.

The gay grapplers will also be at Santa Rosa's Gay Pride events on Sunday, June 10. For more info, visit <http://www.ggwc.org>. ▼

For information on the most popular gay wrestling novel in the world - okay the only one - visit the relatively corporate-ad-free <http://www.myrmidude.com>.

BAY AREA REPORTER
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248806

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jalaram Investment Inc. 2060 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amit Motwala, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/11/01.

MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321162

In the Matter of the Application of Diane Kang For change of Name. The application of Diane Kang for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Kang has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rhee Jun Kang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248962

The following person(s) are doing business as: Payless Moving And Hauling, 3068 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Onkar Gusain. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/16/01.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248918

The following person(s) are doing business as: One Production, Girl Party, Babe, Leather -N- Lace, 119 1/2 Park Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Susan A. McKenna. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/17/01.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248941

The following person(s) are doing business as: Intelliforce Research, 10 Lupine Avenue #13, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lawrence Manuel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 1999. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/18/01.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 240886

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Virtual Assistance Network. Located at: 242 Cayuga Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: May 19, 2000.

This business was conducted by: A General Partnership signed: Lloyd D. Haddad

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321313

In the Matter of the Application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of Name. The application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that George Michael Reyes, Jr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Blythe Bastien Kahill. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249020

The following person(s) are doing business as: Plan It SF, 108 Lower Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas Jay Bercu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 22, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/01.

MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320978

In the Matter of the Application of Kimberly N. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiiah Shaheen Lane for change of Name. The application of Kimberly N. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiiah Shaheen Lane for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kimberly N. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiiah Shaheen Lane has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to KeAndre Isaiiah Shaheen Hicks. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321310

In the Matter of the Application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of Name. The application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mikaela Earline Arroyo. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248927

The following person(s) are doing business as: Image In The Mind. Odd Objects, 317 Harriet Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrea D. Elling. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 18, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/18/01.

MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248804

The following person(s) are doing business as: AG Group, 444 Clementina Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Alex Gong, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 11, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/11/01.

MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249009

The following person(s) are doing business as: Abel Marketing, 1657 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed David L. Wabel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 22, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/01.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249166

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bill's Kitchen & Teriyaki, 475 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Kin Bun Lam and Dina Lam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 28, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/30/01.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249185

The following person(s) are doing business as: Systems Innovation, 16 Cordova Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joevie Bandalan-President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 30, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/30/01.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321699

In the Matter of the Application of Michael Gruebel. For change of Name. The application of Michael Gruebel for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Michael Gruebel has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Angela Michaels Barrett. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 243427

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Systems Innovation. Located at: 16 Cordova Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 9/12/2000. This business was conducted by: a individual: Joevie Bandalan

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

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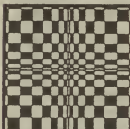
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Moms against Jesse
'Keep Singing' authors
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 23 • 7 June 2001

BAY AREA REPORTER

Give us back our Mink!

Actress Mink Stole kicks off
'Midnight Mass' at the Bridge

by John Blanco

More than they are exploitation flicks, smuttests or camp melodramas, the early films of director John Waters are brilliant comedies. Credit goes not just to the savage, shocking wit of Waters' scripts, but also to the ragtag group of comic actors he enlisted for the films. But because these actors were all local friends and acquaintances of the Baltimore director, they (with the notable exception of Waters' muse, Divine) are usually dismissed as "non actors" and rarely get the respect they deserve. This is an attitude that rankles one of the most illustrious members of Waters' troupe, Mink Stole.

"Every writer who interviews John talks about how he worked with non-actors," complains Stole in a recent interview from her Los Angeles home. "And I want to say, 'Excuse me, I was acting my ass off in those movies.'"

No one who's seen the actress perform as Connie Marble, contender for the title of Filthiest Person Alive in 1972's *Pink Flamingos*, or Taffy Davenport, the "most definitely retarded" daughter of Divine in 1974's *Female Trouble*, would argue

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Mac James

Yuan Yuan Tan as Desdemona
in San Francisco Ballet's *Othello*



Marty Soto

Foreign exchange

San Francisco Ballet triumphs in Paris

by Thomas E. Horn

One of the most significant American-French cultural exchanges of the year came to a successful end in Paris last month with the triumph of the San Francisco Ballet at the old Paris Opera House, the Palais Garnier, and the decoration of its Artistic Director, Helgi Tomasson.

The two-week exchange began in San Francisco when Tomasson invited the Paris Opera Ballet to dance, for the first time, at the War Memorial Opera House. Accompanied by Madame Jacques Chirac, wife of the President of France, as well as some 60 "American Friends of Paris Opera and Ballet," the world's oldest dance company (the National Academy of Dance was founded by Louis XIV 350 years ago) presented two programs: *La Bayadère* by Rudolf Nureyev and *Le Parc* by Angelin Preljocaj. Both programs were very well-received by the American public and the critics.

But the real fun began when the San Francisco Ballet and some 120 board trustees, donors, friends and hangers-on went to Paris. Accepting the invitation of Hugues Gall, Director of the Opéra National de Paris, America's oldest classical dance company took Paris by storm, also presenting two programs. The first united four contemporary works which reflect the dynamism of American choreography, as well as the variety of SFB's repertory. Two of the four pieces, *Prism* and *Chaconne for Piano and Two Dancers*, were choreographed by Tomasson, and held true to his neo-classical tradition, well-developed from his many years at New York City Ballet and as a protégé of George Balanchine. *Sandpaper Ballet*, choreographed by Mark Morris, no stranger to San Francisco, seemed to confound and amuse the French audience at the same time. Perhaps it was the 25 dancers costumed in bright green tights and long gloves, bearing perhaps too close-to-home an image of frogs! The final ballet, *Night*, was choreographed by SFB Prin-

page 43 ►

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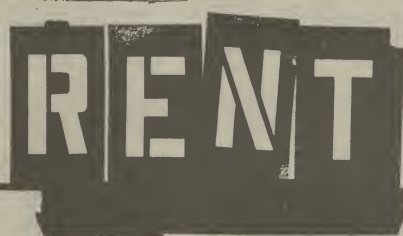


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by Roberto Friedman and
the V. Good Vampires

The best line during last Sunday night's telecast of the annual Tony Awards was the very first remark uttered by host (and Best Actor in a Musical) **Nathan Lane**: "We're so excited!"



Nathan Lane

We feel like the **Bush twins** at Happy Hour! The rest of the program had all of the charm and excitement of **Dick Cheney** at Last Call.

Second-best line: *Sopranos* star **Edie Falco** admitted before presenting an award, "It's a relief to be on a Sunday evening broadcast without a plate of ziti."

Voiceover promos promised that the **humpy cast** of the musicalization of *The Full Monty* would "get naked in prime time!" When their number came, the guys did strip down to fire-engine red g-strings, then yanked them off and went full-frontal — as blinding klieg lights came up behind them. Is American television so afraid of a few penises that we must be blinded, lest we get a glimpse?

The lady is a vamp

Now that youthful actress **Sarah Michelle Gellar** as **Buffy** has been bumped off in the season finale of *B. the Vampire Slayer* — only to be supernaturally resurrected next season, we're so sure — the *Hollywood Reporter* gave her the cover of a recent ish, and 24 pages in the form of a 100th-episode salute entitled "Slay Anything." As *HR* notes, the milestone is "an impressive feat for a show based on an unsuccessful film with an over-the-top title and



Sarah Michelle Gellar as Buffy

starring a cast of relative unknowns." We'll say.

The package treats readers to a complete rundown on key characters and plot twists in Buffy's five telly seasons to date, including the rise of **Adam**, the human-demon hybrid monster bred by the Initiative; and this enticing tidbit: "Buffy tricks **Faith** into revealing the Mayor's ultimate plan: transforming himself into an almost-unstoppable demon creature." Hey, sounds a lot like our neighborhood!

For years we've felt as if we live on top of the gateway to a demonic dimension. Now, thanks to "Slayerspeak," the glossary of terms used in Buffyville, we know the name of our address: Hellmouth. The *Reporter's* choice for best Buffy quote is indeed a classic: "I may be dead, but I'm still pretty."

Press clips

Have you seen *Pride .01*, the official magazine of **San Francisco Pride**? It's thick as a phone book, and brimming with full-color ads. It's great to see an African-American guy as Pride cover boy. But are you wondering why none of the artists profiled in "A Queer Sensibility," their visual art feature, are Bay Area? Wondering why, in fact, all of the feature writers seem to be from out of town? It's because the whole magazine is produced in New York. SF is just an insert in a national glossy.

But back to local color. *Chron*

columnist **Dave Ford** was given space on the *Chron's* OpEd page last week to write about his favorite subject: "Me — now I'm a reporter at a metro newspaper that it sometimes seems as if it took me two decades to get to." Well, no wonder, when you end a long, strangled sentence a preposition with.

Our favorite wire photo of the week was from Reuters, and it showed up in the *New York Times*: a British Labour Party campaign billboard which portrays Conservative Party leader **William Hague** under the hairdo of former Prime Minister **Margaret "Iron Lady" Thatcher**. The caption reads, "Be afraid. Be very afraid."

Duck, duck, goose

If you've done any motoring across this great state of ours, chances are you've come across a building in the shape of a giant chicken, say, or a teepee or a bottle of milk. Now Chronicle Books has collected photographs of roadside vernacular architecture in a new volume called *California Crazy & Beyond*.

Architect **Robert Venturi** classified all such buildings in the category "duck." **Zippy the Pinhead** calls the Doggie Diner head a friend.

Author **Jim Heimann** traces the history, from the Ship Café on Venice Pier (1905) through many hot dog-shaped lunchstands to the Brown Derby in LA (1926) and constructions of our own time. A reader's fun will be in witnessing the truly outrageous ideas of making a building resemble: a six-pack! a cowboy boot! a truly humongous donut!

Guess what inanimate objects the following establishments resemble: Mother Goose Pantry (Pasadena), The Zep Diner (LA), The Hot Tamale (Montebello). Our favorite of many contenders is Hoot Hoot I Scream, originally situated in the Valley, then moved at considerable expense to South Gate. We'd live in it, or in LA's Calpet Super Service Station, designed to look like a Moorish castle, with attendants in appropriate costume.

Jocks trap

Thanks to our priapic pal who collects sports bloopers like these: "**Andrew Mehrkens** loves it when **Darryl Gibson** comes inside of him." (New Zealand rugby commentator)

"This is **Gregoriava** from Bulgaria. I saw her snatch this morning, and it was amazing." (Weightlifting commentator **Pat Glenn**)

"This is really a lovely horse, I once rode her mother." (Horse-racing commentator **Ted Walsh**)

"He's pulling him off! The Spanish manager is pulling his captain off!" (Soccer commentator **George Hamilton** on Spain manager **Luis Suarez's** substitution of **Butragueno** during their World Cup qualifier with Ireland in Seville, 1992)

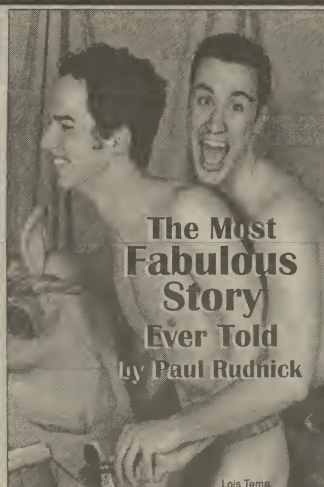
"Ah, isn't that nice, the wife of the Cambridge president is kissing the cox of the Oxford crew." (BBC-TV commentator **Harry Carpenter**, 1977)

"**Julian Dicks** is everywhere. It's like they've got eleven Dicks on the field." (Metro Radio)

"There goes **Juantorena** down the back straight, opening his legs and showing his class." (Sports-caster **David Coleman** at the Montreal Olympics)

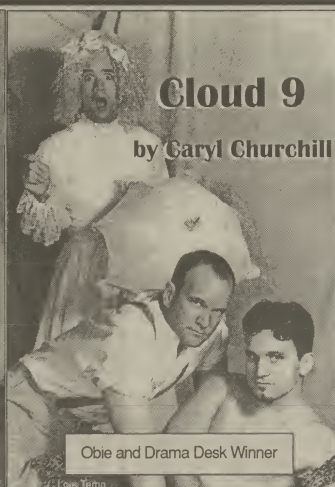
"One of the reasons **Arnold Palmer** is playing so well is that, before each tee-shot, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them." (US TV commentator) ▼

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A night at the (soap) opera

'La Traviata' opens SFO's Verdi summer

by Stephanie von Buchau

La Traviata, which opened the San Francisco Opera's Verdi Celebration last Friday evening, is a paradigm of the soon-to-end Lotfi Mansouri regime. The production is clear, realistic, well-rehearsed. The singers look and act their roles as convincingly as daytime soap opera stars. The music is dispatched as efficiently as possible when a two-hour-and-ten minute score is stretched, via intermissions the composer would not recognize, to nearly 195 minutes. That's the good news.

The bad news is that all that calm sanity, attractive surface and obvious sumptuousness doesn't get within hailing distance of the essence of Verdi's uncomfortable domestic drama, which should involve veiled sexuality, deep spiritual malaise, and the sense that a small, helpless creature is being implacably crushed by a hypocritical society that condemns the very thing it can't wait to purchase. (Sound like today?) In other words, as soap opera, the last Traviata of Mansouri's tenure skillfully avoids confrontation with what real opera is all about — expression of unbearable emotions through singing. There



Patricia Racette as Violetta Valéry in SF Opera's La Traviata

shouldn't be anything sane about La Traviata; it should be febrile, intense, demented.

The only time this production comes near those ideals is in the later acts, when Patricia Racette's Violetta warms up vocally. Her initial act, with all that daunting coloratura, is delivered handsomely, but with a tone more acidulous than ever. She has the technique for "Sempre libera," though on this occasion I found her sounding slightly underpowered in the runs and in need of conductorial support. I didn't find the first scene of Act II as moving as it should be, partly because director John Copley had Racette lounging uncomfortably to sing "Dite alla giovine" while Germont (Christopher Robertson) walked around holding but not using his cane. I kept expecting him to fall over.

American beauty

Yet by the second part of Act II (SFO calls it Act III), when Violetta has taken the fatal course of believing her lover's bourgeois father and has returned to the harsh, jealous Baron Douphol (John Ames, always stalwart in small roles), a light seems to go on in Racette. Not a big burst of flame, mind you — this is an American, not an Italian Violetta — but something that elevates her keen acting, slender good looks and distinguished musicality to an approximation of what I remember from the all-too-few thrilling performances of this opera I've heard live. Most of them starred Italians — Licia Albanese, Katia Ricciarelli, Tiziana Fabbri — who were steeped in the style, something this current Traviata, with its relentlessly American leads, sorely lacks.

If tenor Stephen Mark Brown, making his SFO debut, had been able to elevate his game as well, one might have left the theater in that state that director Stephen Wadsworth suggests Verdi wants above all things: tears. But Brown, one of those beefy, snub-nosed tenors who produces a steady stream of whitish, mid-sized sound (viz. Richard Margison), reminded me of a college athlete, likely to dump Violetta (and sex altogether) if he could just make

the Varsity team.

Physically, he may be your type, but the voice has no juice (or slancio, as my companion put it) and seems one size too small for the War Memorial. He made a hash of Alfredo's cabaletta, but then don't they all? The same person who had the musical sense to kill the baritone's cabaletta in that scene should also have considered sparing Brown (and us) the agony of struggling to a high C. There was no way the generic Robertson could have sung Germont's cabaletta; let us hope that, with all these rumors about incoming General Director Pamela Rosenberg dumping singers, Robertson is near the top of the list.

The same can be said for Marco Armiliato. There are a number of good, young Italian conductors out there; we've sampled enough Armiliato to know he is not one of them. When the chorus sings goodbye to Violetta in Act I and it takes a dozen bars for them to get in sync with the orchestra, someone is not commanding the ship. Brown misfired on the opening of "Un di felice," and Robertson had a devil of a time getting together with the conductor on "Di Provenza." Armiliato didn't do a good job with that rocking finale to Act II, which requires a steady, hypnotic pace.

Copley may be bored with his mundane 1987 production by now. He expends his energies on making the chorus of courtesans and their keepers look as foolish as possible, maybe to contrast them with Violetta's stark fate. (Newsflash: Verdi has done this for you already. Trust him.) The nadir was reached when Flora's lover allowed the Bette Midler-like Catherine Keen to up-end him and paddle his bottom in time to the tambourine clashes from the Spanish divertissement. Yes, I know this sounds like fun, but believe me, it rings false in a Verdi opera where vulgarity comes from the misguided human heart, not from overheated genitals. ▼

La Traviata continues in repertory at the War Memorial through June 30. For tickets (\$23-\$165), call 864-3330.

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DANCE

Listening to the body

Joe Goode Performance Group at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

by Michael Wade Simpson

A Joe Goode Performance Group production is like *Bye, Bye Birdie* for the new millennium. The performers talk. They sing and dance, they make you laugh. The problem is, the fact that Goode is a choreographer, and his company is known as a modern dance troupe, works against him. Audiences, for the most part, avoid modern dance like the plague. It's their loss.

Contact, the "experimental" dance-theatre piece that won the Tony and is a big hit on Broadway (now playing in a touring production across town), seems trite and sophomoric compared to the intelligence and heart offered in Goode's work. Some producer should hire a TV star to play the woman in the dog head, and put Goode's company in an off-Broadway theatre for a few months. The work really deserves to be seen.

What the Body Knows, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater through June 3, includes the title piece as the first act, with two other short works, "Hapless" and "Take Place," making up the second.

Outside the theatre, starting an hour before the performance, three site-specific installations offered glimpses of Goode's themes. A chorus of shirtless men in white skirts ran through the landscaping, dancing in a line of birch trees and throwing themselves onto the shrubbery; a couple sat facing each other across a kitchen table placed in a fountain; people with megaphones and 50-foot shirt-tails attached to the rafters of a portico entrance jumped around and shouted bits of text as their costumes became sails.

It was the transition from a hot day into a cold night. There were crowds, and you had to jostle and maneuver a little if you really wanted to see. The dancers were bare-skinned and cold-looking in the wind, Harley-Davidsons and fire engines superimposed their own soundscore over Goode's, the beginnings and endings of things were unclear. But when the doors to the theatre opened, the audi-



Felipe Barrueto-Cabello and Marc Morozumi in *What the Body Knows*: 'Dance is the seal on the script.'

ence moved immediately forward, in a slight trance, like some kind of tour group in Florence entering the cathedral they'd come 1,000 miles to see.

House blend

"What the Body Knows" is a blend of monologues linked with music and movement. Dance is merely the seal on the script. The piece is character-based, body is subtext. Goode is the DJ of a bio-dance. Stories are told in fragments and song. Lighting, music, interesting use of live video and scenic elements, even props and set elements all add layers and texture to the narrative.

Performer Elizabeth Burritt, a larger-than-life personality screaming about her lot in life, was both hilarious and disturbing. We saw a woman, someone who was "born to understand," going crazy with the burden of empathy. "Some of my best friends are stuck in their heads," she said, mugging for the camera which sent us her contorted face in big-screen close-up, projected as she spoke. At the end of the piece, we joined her as a camera mounted on a shopping cart took us on a trip over the edge. On the screen, her live close-up faded into a different image: her face underwater, letting out the last bubbles of air,

drowning.

The other stories seemed to pale in comparison, possibly because Burritt's performance was so over-the-top. But as texture to the theatrical experience, each offered different approaches, varying uses of text, image and movement. Most memorable was the sexually frustrated Marit Brook-Kothlow dancing in a blue wig, and Paul Benney, tortured by the burden of gay domesticity, surrounded by a stage filled with steaming tea kettles.

Throughout, dance sequences were illustrative, clearly etched but

soft-edged, an expression of body as contact point, dance as community act, movement as symbol of change.

"Hapless" had barely any "dancing" in it. But there was a woman in a dog's head, a man who feels like a toy truck — "I'm all wound up, I need and I need and I never get satisfied" — and another woman who was so passive she was lifted around the stage like a prop: "I'm numb... should I wear the red shoes or the blue shoes?" The most somber and existential of the pieces presented, "Hapless" seemed to offer three

unsympathetic characters without any explanation. "This life isn't going to get any easier," we were told.

"Take Place" also knocked people for their cluelessness — in this case, towards nature. Dancers appeared carrying enormous branches and made a forest which parted to allow a very urbane Joe Goode to come forward and talk, smoking a cigarette, pondering buying a place in Vermont, a couple of acres where he could simultaneously telecommute and get back to nature. "Far away, but only a couple of hours from New York."

Then cynicism faded into a dream. A huge tree backdrop flew in from the rafters, Vong Phrom-mala appeared as a fairy princess, and Goode began to imagine, alternatively, a place a million miles away, "where the trees don't belong to anyone."

For Goode, this final image of contentment may be fantasy, but theatre is also a dream, and in this case, a gift. As he hummed to the audience, and the dancers moved under the grace of a tree, it was clear that Goode may be the cynical father, but his passion, and panacea, is the power of stories. He makes us believe. ▼

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From Page to the stage

Hurwitz to play 'Funny Girlz' at Herbst

by Richard Dodds

Comedian Page Hurwitz moved to San Francisco to come out, and in the process, she found love in her life and laughter in her career. Now she's moving to Los Angeles, where she has two TV comedies in development, but not before she performs in *Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor* on June 9 at the Herbst Theatre.

The transplanted New Yorker had been working at the San Francisco Tennis Club when friends pushed her to perform at an open-mike night at Josie's Cabaret. "It sounds so corny," she said recently, "but I got out on the stage and felt so at home. I knew it was exactly what I should be doing with my life."

That was three years ago, and within days, Hurwitz had committed herself to a life as a comedian. She's worked steadily, both in gay and lesbian situations, and with general audiences who find that her openness about being a lesbian doesn't mean material that is narrowly focused.

Hurwitz considers her comedy something of a hybrid. "Any comic uses some observational humor," she said, "but mine isn't observational in the tradition of Jerry Seinfeld. 'Don't you hate it when you get peanuts on the airplane...' I think for the most part I'm an anecdotal comic. I tell sto-



Comedian Page Hurwitz: 'I never considered not coming out.'

ries, personal and humiliating stories, and then weave in observational stuff. I build digression into my routine, and that allows me to be a little more spontaneous."

Sometimes she'll digress into a mention of her girlfriend or some other gay reference, and even for that she must pay a price. "As soon as you start talking in your act about the fact that you're gay, and even though it may not be the focus of your act, you're immediately funneled into certain venues," she said. "I find that sort of annoying. However, I never considered not coming out."

When Hurwitz moved to San Francisco from New York six years ago, she was so ready to come out. "When I got here," she said, "I was constantly walking around with, like, smoke machines at a disco, because it was just such an amazing time, and just to feel free and liberated and do things I had never done before."

She has been together with her partner, a San Francisco attorney, for four years. "We were both dating other people when we met and we became best of friends, so we had a really good foundation when the time came when we were both single," Hurwitz said. Her impending move to Los Angeles will force them into a dual-city relationship, at least for a while.

3 out of 3

Despite the sense of liberation that San Francisco provided, Hurwitz dragged her feet about telling her parents that she is gay. "My brother and sister are both gay, and they had already come out, so I really waited a long time," she said. "I was the last great straight hope."

But she thinks her mother suspected anyway. "My mother has a theory that lesbians don't wear earrings, so each year on my birthday she gave me progressively larger earrings. Finally, I couldn't take it any more — the earrings were like hood ornaments — and I said, 'You know, Mom,

I've got something to tell you.' I thought she was going to be a wreck, but she was so cool it kind of grossed me out. She said, 'If you and your girlfriend stay together, maybe your brother can be her sperm donor.' But it was so much better than her crying and rolling on the floor."

While her mother and sister still live in New York, her father and her brother are in Southern California, making her upcoming move more appealing.

LA-bound with the goal of becoming a television writer, she's working on two pilot scripts, one for Touchstone and one for Comedy Central, that could turn into series — but not with her as their stars. "I'm a rare standup comic who doesn't want to be on TV," she said.

The project for Touchstone (a division of Disney) is titled *I'm So Lucky*, which Hurwitz describes as a fish-out-of-water story about a hip New Yorker who winds up working in a K-mart in the South. "Imagine one of the *Sex and the City* girls in Wewoka, Okla.," Hurwitz said.

It's targeted at mainstream audiences, unlike the Comedy Central project. "That show is actually very gay, and I'm very excited about it," she said. "It has a lead character named Page who's a lesbian comic living with two straight friends in a condo building that is entirely filled with lesbians."

But Page will not play Page. "I'm just going to play a peripheral recurring character," she said. "I think we should get someone a little nicer than me to play me." ▼

Page Hurwitz will perform at the third annual *Funny Girlz* at 8 p.m. June 9 at Herbst Theatre. The bill includes Elvira Kurt, Rene Hicks, Bridget Schwartz, Yayne Abebe, the Latina Theatre Lab, and producer/host Lisa Geduldig. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Call 392-4400.



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They're here, they're square

Get used to it: 'Forever Plaid' at New Conservatory Theatre Center

by Richard Dodds

It's a place where a solemn requiem can be punctuated with a "sha-boom," where Sunday night with Ed Sullivan is a quasi-religious experience, and where Perry Como's cardigan sweater is an exalted vestment.

Welcome to Plaidland.

This blithe and quirky world is being evoked in genial fashion at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, where *Forever Plaid* is being offered as part of the theater's *In Concert* series. The production hits enough of the right notes to warrant a visit, especially if this is a first visit to the place where square is beautiful.

The 80-minute musical, a long-running off-Broadway success, uses as its building blocks many of the songs that gave such groups as the Four Aces, the Four Freshmen, and the Four Lads a chance to blend their voices in smooth harmony. Stuart Ross, the musical's creator, found a way to locate the lost pleasures created by those harmonies and their practitioners at the same time that he was sending up the unbearable squareness of their being.

Ross' simple but clever notion was to take four fellows who aspire to be the next set of Aces, Lads, or Freshmen, and transport them with all their 1950s sensibilities intact to the present day. Killed in a car accident on the way to their first professional gig, they have fallen through a hole in the astral plane to land on a stage where they have a chance to finally deliver that never-seen performance.

The songs create nostalgia for music you probably didn't realize you missed. The arrangements have been tweaked by James Raitt, creating humor where none was intended, and the Plaid's synchronized moves draw more laughs, but the songs must

also stand up musically on their own. While not every harmonized moment is a thing of beauty here, Dave Mialovich, Matthew Lazzarini, David Sasse, and Gary Wayne Farris have enough musical showmanship and onstage charm to make the aggregate agreeable.

Director Earl Weaver's production, with musical direction by Alan Fricke, is simple but solid, though the *tour de force* three-minute version of an entire *Ed Sullivan* show is not as tidy as it might be. This also seems to be a slightly abridged version of the musical. The Beatles' "She Loves You" (with the "yeah, yeah, yeahs"

replaced by "yessiree, Bob") has been excised, and the memorable "nice box" sight gag is also missing.

It's easy to see why *Forever Plaid* has become such a popular attraction. It is affectionate without being sappy, clever without being sarcastic, and nostalgic without being old-fashioned. Even in its somewhat reduced circumstances, this Plaidland is a happy place to spend an evening. ▼

Forever Plaid will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through July 8. Tickets are \$16-\$32. Call 861-8972.



The cast of *Forever Plaid*, 'fallen through a hole in the astral plane.'

Beautician on a mission

Singer Bill Cooper is soaking in it

by Jim Van Buskirk

By day, Bill Cooper works as a hairdresser in San Jose, but on two upcoming Sundays, he'll be singing his heart out at the Plush Room. *You're Soaking In It* is the witty title of his new show, with musical direction by Barry Lloyd and special lyrics by Michael Mascioli, scheduled for June 10 & 17.

Cooper has also recently released his debut CD, *Anything Goes!*, which honors the great "lost" women singers from the 1940s to the '60s who sang popular music, songs from Tin Pan and Shubert Alleys. As Mascioli writes in his liner notes, Frances Faye, Kay Thompson, and Dolores Gray may not be directly represented on the disc, but their spirit certainly is. Cooper has assembled an eclectic mix of standards and worthy songs introduced by the likes

of Karen Morrow, Lisa Kirk and Susan Johnson that, for whatever reason, went by the wayside. Even if you've never heard of these dear, departed dames, you'll be impressed with the composers Cooper has collected.

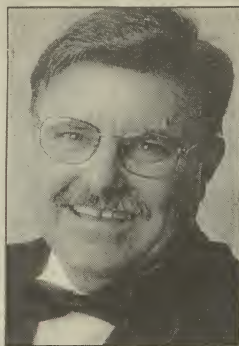
Cole Porter is spotlighted by "From This Moment on" as well as the album's title song, Johnny Mercer by "I Fought Every Step of the Way" and "Out of This World," Rodgers and Hart by "You're Nearer" and "Why Can't I?" Irving Berlin's "The Hostess with the Mostes" on the Ball" becomes, with assistance from Mascioli's new lyrics, "I'm a Beautician on a Mission."

Cooper's inspired interpretations are beautifully backed by Barry Lloyd on piano and Al Obidinski on bass. Among the album's 18 tracks are Rodgers and Hammerstein's "So Far" from *Allegro*, originally introduced by Gloria Wills, and "They Say It's

Wonderful" from *Annie Get Your Gun*, sung by Ethel Merman and Betty Hutton on Broadway and Hollywood, respectively.

Refusing to change the pronouns in these songs usually sung by women like Elaine Stritch or Judy Garland, Cooper reimagines them alternately as heartfelt gay ballads or the campiest of compositions. Cooper unearths rare gems like "When the Tall Man Talks," introduced by Susan Johnson in *Whoop-up!*, and "I Fought Every Step of the Way," by Rose Marie in *Top Banana*. I would have appreciated even more information on the history of some of the lesser-known songs.

Cooper is an equally persuasive and personable performer, whether singing torch songs or novelty numbers, upbeat or down. He loves what he's doing, and doesn't take himself too seriously ("I'm Vidal Sassoon and Frances Faye combined.") His en-



Bill Cooper: Inspired

thusiasm compels the listener to join him on his musical journey. Accepting that invitation, whether on CD or in performance, rewards listeners with wonderful warmth and rare freshness. ▼

Bill Cooper plays the Plush Room at the York Hotel, 940 Sutter St., June 10 & 17 at 7 p.m. \$15 cover, two-drink minimum. Reservations: 885-2800.



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Borrowed treasures

Smithsonian art collection visits the
Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford



Angel, by Abbott Handerson Thayer (1887): Sublime

by Will Shank

A little-visited Bay Area treasure is the Cantor Center for Visual Arts, popularly known as the Stanford Art Museum. Its glittering renovation a few years ago was an event somewhat overshadowed for San Francisco art-lovers by the face-lift of the nearer-by California Palace of the Legion of Honor. But the resulting marriage of the classic, and somewhat grave, older museum building, which was heavily damaged in the 1989 quake, and the light-filled additions by Polshek and Partners Architects is one of the most delightful spaces in which to view art in the Bay Area. At present, an installation in the upper rotunda of the old building features the energetic and little-seen bronzes of Willem de Kooning, which provide a thoughtful counterpoint to the outdoor sculpture garden below, where bronze castings of Rodin's weighty and ponderous figures are permanently installed. (The Cantor Center T-shirts read, "I have seen *The Gates of Hell*.")

As a serious academic institution, the Cantor Center does not charge admission. Nor does it tend to use pop-culture titles like *From Tiepolo to Thiebaud* to draw the public into its galleries for an installation of its permanent collection. So I was somewhat surprised to see the icky title *Treasures to Go* on the current traveling exhibition of artworks on loan from the Smithsonian American Art Museum (which is still as much a mouthful as its former name, The National Museum of American Art). While its home, one of Washington's most beautiful buildings, the former US Patent Office, is undergoing renovations, the collections of the SAAM and its co-tenant, the National Portrait Gallery, are on tour, and the moniker reflects the many different categories into which the road shows have been grouped: e.g. *American Impressionism*, *Contemporary Folk Art*, *Arte Latino*, all of which are making frantic rounds elsewhere around the country, through 2002.

The name notwithstanding, this grouping of paintings and sculptures from Washington, dubbed *The Gilded Age*, holds treasures indeed. Elsewhere in the history of art and architecture, the period is referred to as The American Renaissance, with dates roughly from 1876 to 1917. (For museumgoers with long memories, the Fine Arts Museums received a Brooklyn Museum exhibition back in 1980 which evoked this epoch.) The last three decades of the 19th century and the beginnings of the 20th were an era of creative energy previously unparalleled on this side of the Atlantic. The super-rich captains of the Industrial Revolution (Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Frick, and company) were setting a new standard of patronage in America by commissioning such luminaries as architects McKim, Mead and White, or Carrère and Hastings, to realize

their public and private buildings. They hired the best "craftsmen" available (read: Louis Comfort Tiffany and John LaFarge) to fashion their stained glass windows and plan their other interior decorations. Their monuments were designed by the likes of Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Daniel Chester French. Their portraits were painted by American expatriate artist John Singer Sargent.

Immaterial girl

The Smithsonian American Art Museum has particularly rich holdings in the art of this period, and a number of them are on display at Stanford. If the portraits are less than inspiring, they represent the high degree of competence and fluidity of such *fin de siècle* society painters as Sargent and Cecilia Beaux. But lest you start to believe that the paintings are no more than art to read Henry James by, far more resonant are the idealized female figures of Thomas Dewing in their custom-made gilded frames, or Abbott Thayer's sublime "Angel" of 1889, which may easily be read as a spiritual allegory in a material age. The more familiar images by the artist Childe Hassam, of the Manhattan Fourth of July parades, are not present, but a woman at a piano provides a worthy substitute. And if the originals of Saint-Gaudens's "Diana" (1889), which once crowned Madison Square Garden, or French's "Concord Minute Man of 1774" (modeled in 1889) are not present, small-scale versions of these great works are installed in the galleries.

Perhaps the most interesting works, however, are those that point toward the future and Modernism. If the "Renaissance" of 19th-century America evokes its glorious past (e.g. French's "Minute Man" and his Lincoln Memorial statue) or harkens back to Italian roots (most of the architecture of the period), it also looks forward to the best of the 20th century. A superb Winslow Homer from 1894, "High Cliff, Coast of Maine," shows the artist, who was one of the masters of realism in both oil and watercolors, in a nearly abstract mode. And four paintings by the impossible-to-classify Albert Pinkham Ryder break the elements of painting into its basic elements. His brooding seascapes of the 1880s are the essence of form and texture, with a minimum of color.

While in a modernist mood, stop by a small, upper gallery at the Cantor Center and take in an exhibition of works on paper which are a recent gift to Stanford by artist Nathan Oliveira. They are a choice selection of prints and drawings by artists from Gustav Klimt and Max Beckmann to Richard Diebenkorn and Oliveira himself. ▼

The Gilded Age: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum runs through June 17 at the Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University. Info: call (650) 725-4177.



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BOOKS

Is it time to forgive A Different Light?

'Book Report' talks with store manager Holly Bemiss

by Deborah Peifer

When A Different Light Bookstore changed owners some months ago, longtime fans of the store went into culture shock. Overnight, or so it seemed, what had been an important community resource started to look like a gay Borders. Longtime staff disappeared, and for many of us, ADL was no longer a vital stop in the Castro. When asked by a friend to meet store manager Holly Bemiss and give her a chance to make a case for the new ADL, I decided that I missed the store too much not to take a shot. Here's some of what she had to say.



Book Report

Deborah Peifer: The change of ownership of ADL seemed to involve lots of terminations. Is there anyone still at the store who worked there under the previous owners?

Holly Bemiss: I was actually hired prior to the change in ownership. There are two other booksellers who had been working at A Different Light before I joined the staff as well, one for several years. I didn't have anything to do with the decisions made during that time. I do know that "lots of terminations" is simply rumor. As far as I know, there were no terminations. The store was overstaffed, and hours had to be cut if the store was to survive. Everyone knew that there would be changes. The people who left chose to move on to something else instead of changing with the store.

Looking back, do you think the transition could have been handled better, or were the negative reactions pretty much inevitable?

Transitions are always difficult, and even though it would seem that the GLBT community would welcome change, it was not easy for all of the booksellers or customers to accept. It is important to remember that A Different Light would have closed if new

people had not been willing to invest a great deal of time and money into the bookstores.

Now that some time has passed, what can you say about the new ADL in terms of staff and stock?

It is so important to me that the booksellers at A Different Light be friendly people that love books. I feel very lucky to have a staff of booksellers who work hard, read a lot, are as helpful as possible, and enjoy customers. Every week, our stock improves. Initially, we did spend much time cleaning off the shelves and weeding out books that had

gathered dust for years because no one wanted to buy them and they were never returned to the publishers. People commented on the store looking "empty," and for a while, the stock was a bit slim. I am so relieved to report that things have been going very well at ADL for the past few months.

Does the queer community need a queer bookstore? If we do, why should it be ADL?

There are many queer people who feel very comfortable shopping at chain stores or online. And though I can't say exactly what the queer community needs, I have worked at a number of stores in a chain company, and I have seen the way many of those stores operate. Though they claim diversity — and they love to take queer money — in my experience they were not really interested in the GLBT community, books, or even the staff that identified as queer. I was also fortunate enough to work at a wonderful independent store in the city, A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, which I think is the very best general bookstore around. But there is something special about a specialty store. Even if a general store has a good selection of GLBT books, it cannot provide as many books or the same environment that a GLBT store can provide. It's amazing to witness the reaction



A Different Light manager Holly Bemiss

that many tourists or newcomers have while browsing our store — they're happy, encouraged and comfortable. This is, after all, the only GLBT specialty bookstore in San Francisco. I think it's so important that it remain and prosper

in the years to come.

Where do you hope you and the store are a year from now? Five years?

I hope the literary community in San Francisco finds ADL to be

their home, as so many local readers and tourists have. I hope that because of this, the store continues to grow. As our situation improves, our stock will grow. I hope that in the years to come we will be able to carry an increasingly diverse selection of books. I hope that our newly launched website, A Different Light Bookstore.com, takes off, so that more people can have access to queer books.

Is there a question you wish I'd asked because you had a great answer? Now's your chance.

It seems strange that people would get so upset about the store changing in ownership. The new owners are working hard to make the stores survive. I can't understand why some people complain that we have "sold out," then go and shop at a general non-queer bookstore or at Amazon.com. If people no longer support their neighborhood bookstore, who is selling out? We are here for the community, and have worked hard to create a respectable bookstore for the community. The individuals in our community just have to walk through our door, and give us a chance to say, "Hello." ▼

If you wish to respond to this interview, send your comments to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

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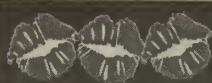
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Maripat Donovan explains it all

Sister on a mission in 'Late Nite Catechism'



Maripat Donovan as Sister in *Late Nite Catechism*

by Richard Dodds

Maripat Donovan, who plays the no-nonsense Sister in *Late Nite Catechism*, is cagey about her own religious beliefs.

"It's not good PR," she said. "What if I said I don't believe in God and I don't go to church on Sundays and I'm a lesbian and I smoke pot every minute?"

Is any of that true? "Some, maybe," Donovan replied in a gruff voice honed on Chicago's South Side and 47 years in construction.

Donovan is the co-author as well as the star of the affectionate satire of religious education that opens June 13 at the Union Square Theatre. Still running in Chicago after nine years, there are currently satellite companies in eight other cities. Whenever possible, Donovan tries to spend the first two months performing in a new city while a local actress learns the ropes before taking over.

"You gotta have a performer

who can control the house, do the improv, have the religious knowledge, do the written comedy, and direct traffic," Donovan said. "It's a big job."

The script that Donovan and Vicki Quade concocted almost a decade ago is little more than 30 pages, which means as much of 50 percent of what Sister says comes from digressions and interaction with the audience.

"I've got 10 hours of material," she said. "It's all about editing in your head."

The audience is cast as a group of adult catechism students, and participation is encouraged but not required. "I ask a lot of questions," Donovan said, "and if you don't know the right answer, sit really still and stare at your shoes."

But if you get it right, you may win a glow-in-the-dark crucifix or some other religious trinket. If you answer wrong, watch out, because Sister is an unpredictable mistress of her domain.

"The funny thing about our show is that the ones who say they

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Super Moms take on Jesse Helms

Activists Patsy Clarke & Eloise Vaughn 'Keep Singing'

by Brandon Judell

Six-foot, seven-inch Mark Russell Clarke once thought he'd go to divinity school

because he liked the robes the Episcopal priests wore. Even as a tot, he enjoyed dressing up. He'd put on a cape and make believe he was Superman.

Baritone, broad-shouldered Mark Foster Vaughn starred in his high school's production of *Brigadoon*. He loved musicals and detested softball. One of his favorite songs was "The Rose": "It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance."

Both boys grew up to be strong, good-humored men, but before they could reach their full potential, they succumbed to AIDS.

Keep Singing is the heartening autobiographical tale of what the two Marks left behind: two North

Carolina Moms who suddenly found that sitting around grieving wasn't their cup of tea. Patsy Clarke and Eloise Vaughn turned from wearing black and baking apple pies to becoming political activists who tried to unseat Jesse Helms in 1996 — not an easy transformation.

Especially for Patsy Clarke, who at the time was a devout Republican widow whose late husband had been a close friend of Helms. When Eloise, also a widow but a Democratic one, came across an article in which Helms stated that people with AIDS "deserved what they got," she showed it to her pal. Clarke immediately contacted the Senator: "My reason for writing to you... is to ask you not to pass judgment on other human beings as 'deserving what they get.' No one deserves that. AIDS is not a disgrace, it is a tragedy. Nor is homosexuality a disgrace; we so-called normal people make it a tragedy because of our own lack of understanding."

Two weeks later, Helms replied: "I know that Mark's death was devastating to you. As for homosexuality, the Bible judges it, I do not. As for Mark, I wish he had not played Russian roulette with his sexual activity. I have sympa-

thy for him and for you. But there is no escaping the reality of what happened."

That response saddened and angered the two gals so much they started Mothers Against Jesse in Congress (MAJIC) and soon found themselves marked as No. 3 on Helms' enemy list. Their battle got national attention, and although Helms held on to his power base, Patsy and Eloise still felt they were winners in the end.

"I'm grateful for what I learned and for what I internalized for myself," Patsy said in a New York hotel at the beginning of the *Keep Singing* tour last week. "I really never thought about these things before Mark died, and though we failed with Jesse, we haven't failed with ourselves and with the people we've met. So we're now on a campaign to destroy homophobia."

And the duo has lots of time for their campaign, since they're both not dating at the moment.

"I'm 72," the beautifully coiffed Patsy laughed.

"I'm getting there very fast. Also, I don't have time for dating," the charming Eloise added. "But it'd be fine. I'd just love to..."

"But there's never been any

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Keep Singing authors Patsy Clarke and Eloise Vaughn

MUSIC

Working up to a grand finale

MTT to conduct Mahler's 'Symphony of a Thousand'

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony season ends this week with four performances of Mahler's enormous Eighth, or the *Symphony of a Thousand*. Can it really be time for Pops and festival concerts again?

The maestro certainly knows the meaning of a grand season finale, at any rate — no mounting of the Mahler Eighth could ever be considered anything less than an event. Tilson Thomas has also shown us repeatedly that he has a wonderful understanding of Mahler's universe. If there are any seats left, I would call the box office now.

Soprano Michelle DeYoung will be back onstage after filling in last week for an ailing Thomas Hampson. It was a disappointment to miss a visit from one of our most intelligent and attractive baritone stars, but DeYoung is a trooper, and she is fashioning a lustrous career of her own.

Richard Wagner's *Five Songs on Poems by Mathilde Wesendonck* have a certain uneasy sensuality about them that is suited to DeYoung's big but not overpowering voice. Her stage presence is imposing, yet she can scale her tone to an intimate range, and MTT's careful handling of the orchestral backdrop made a satisfying substitution for Hampson's previously scheduled Mozart arias.

The program opened with Brahms' *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*, given a pleasant if rather stately treatment. Considering that we were still panting from last week's surprise heat wave, there was reason to fear the rest of the evening might prove unbearably restful. DeYoung's radiant glide to center stage, however, seemed to coincide with a boost in the hall's air-conditioning, and her lovely rendition of Wagner's *Tristan*-esque setting of Wesendonck's middle words was a perfect tonic.

After a mass exodus to the exterior decks during the intermis-

sion, the large and generally aged Wednesday-night subscriber crowd settled in gamely for Shostakovich's big, big *Symphony No. 5*. Bless them for trying to keep their coughing and loudly whispered side comments to a minimum. One old chap grinned winsomely as he tried to rapidly turn his hearing aid down during the first crescendo of the first movement. A little feedback from his device could not distract from the momentum MTT had started from the very beginning.

If Tilson Thomas has waited until late in his own career to tackle the wild fluctuations in taste and impact of the mighty Shostakovich 15, he is showing the wisdom of his pace. As with every major composer that he chooses to take up, he is getting down to the business of Shostakovich with a thoughtful mixture of discipline and advocacy. It would be so easy to go over the top with the *Symphony No. 5*, arguably the best known and admired of the tortured composer's orchestral scores. The everything-but-the-kitchen-sink orchestrations and raucous marches do not endear the Fifth to me, although I am an ardent admirer otherwise.

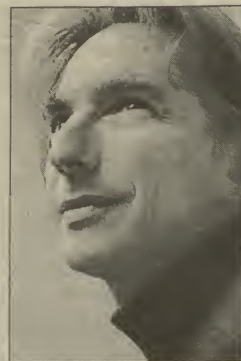
MTT did not aim for mere effect, however, and as a result, the performance did not tax the orchestra to the breaking point, nor did it amount to a lot of sound and fury. Quite the contrary — this was a genuinely exciting expe-

rience, and the hushed tension of the extended Largo (Shostakovich made the template for this sort of movement) was just right. Soprano Michelle DeYoung got some well-earned shouts of approval for her work earlier that night, but MTT sent the crowd back out into the tropical night with a fresh take on an often misunderstood modern composer.

Lean cuisine

The previous week was all about MTT's allegiance to every East Coaster's favorite minimalist, Steve Reich. Tilson Thomas has recorded *The Desert Music* for Nonesuch in its original full orchestral guise with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, but he opted for a leaner instrumentation recently, and the results were quite refreshing. With a chamber chorus (selected members of Vance George's redoubtable SFS Chorus), several synthesizers, and a characteristically Reichian battery of percussion (love those marimbas), the conductor wove a more stringent texture, but also elicited a cleaner sound from this beautiful score.

The words, chosen from excerpts of poetry by William Carlos Williams, were remarkably clear throughout, even if Reich plays rather free and fast with the texts. The score flowed effortlessly, and MTT found marvelous subtleties in the tempo changes. Reich has never tried to write prettily, though the cumulative effect of all



Michael Tilson Thomas

that repetition can be hypnotically attractive. I have always appreciated the slightly hard edge to his sound, and using reduced forces to perform *The Desert Music*, Tilson Thomas took one of the composer's more lush statements back to a typically terse landscape.

Michael Tilson Thomas has given us a terrific month, filled with his trademark specialties. The upcoming Mozart celebration looks tempting, but I still find myself thinking about Steve Reich and Shostakovich. The Mozart Festival, led by none other than conductor Sir Neville Marriner, founder of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, begins on June 20 and continues through June 30. It should be quite remarkable, along with one or two of this summer's Pops events. Thanks to MTT's continued brilliance in programming and execution, however, we will still be savoring the close of the Symphony season right on through to September. ▼



Helgi Tomasson, artistic director of the San Francisco Ballet, was awarded the Order of Arts and Letters from the Ministry of Culture of France by Mr. Hugues R. Gall, Director of the Opéra National de Paris

SF Ballet in Paris

◀ Arts cover

Principal Dancer Julia Adam.

Showing a decidedly different side of the San Francisco Ballet, the second program featured the European premiere of the full-length ballet *Othello*, SFB's collaboration with American Ballet Theatre, choreographed by Lar Lubovitch and set to the music of Elliot Goldenthal. Given four times, the ballet offered the considerable talents of three separate sets of Principal Dancers in the roles of *Othello* and *Desdemona*: Yuri Possokhov and Yuan Yuan Tan; Cyril Pierre and Lucia Lacarra; and Pierre-François Vilanova and Katita Waldo. Danc-ing in all four performances, handsome Gonzalo Garcia "incarnated a perfect Cassio," according to René Sirvin, dance critic for the French daily *Le Figaro*.

The Orchestre Colonne, a frequent guest orchestra at the Paris Opéra, performed nightly under the talented direction of Emil de Cou and Scott Speck.

Fascinating rhythm

The French are never an easy audience to please. Yet at the conclusion of each performance when the curtain calls were completed, the crowd burst into that rhythmic clapping that the French public award sparingly when they know they have seen something really special. The critic Sirvin, remembering the San Francisco Ballet's two previous visits to Paris in 1989 and 1994, said it well: "This is a happy rediscovery of a company

that seems younger, more beautiful and more-motivated than ever."

The highlight of the week off stage was the awarding by the French government to Helgi Tomasson of its highest cultural decoration: the Order of Arts and Letters. Presented by Hugues Gall, Director of the Opéra National de Paris, and in the name of the French Minister of Culture, Madame Catherine Tasca, Tomasson was named *Officier* and was kissed so many times by the French that he had drool on his cheeks.

Although Tomasson had been told the night before that he was going to be decorated, it didn't keep tears from coming to his eyes as he modestly accepted the decoration and told the assembled crowd of about 200 dancers, San Franciscans and friends how honored he felt to be given the award, and how his professional life had been marked by French dance and choreography. There to share the moment with him were his wife, Marlene; his friend, the President of Iceland, where Tomasson was born, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson; French Senator André Maman; and the former French Minister of Culture, Jacques Toubon.

Equally as touched as Tomasson by the award were his French dancers, who know well what a prestigious honor their boss had just received. Cyril Pierre, who once danced with Paris Opéra Ballet and now dances for Tomasson, himself with tears in his eyes, made his way through all the well-wishers until he reached Tomasson, to hug him and say in that very thick French accent, "I am so proud!" ▼



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Mink Stole

◀ Arts cover

with Stole's assertion. This talented comic actress will receive some long-overdue recognition at the opening night of the Bridge Theatre's annual *Midnight Mass* movie series on Saturday, June 9. The evening includes a montage of Mink's finest screen moments, an audience question-and-answer session with the actress, and a screening of *Desperate Living*, Waters' 1977 movie which gave Stole the juiciest role of her career.

In *Desperate Living*, Stole plays Peggy Gravel, an upper-middle-class Baltimore housewife who has a spectacular crack-up. Early in the movie, Peggy answers the phone, discovers it's a wrong number, and screams, "Sorry? What good is that? How can you ever repay the 30 seconds that you've stolen from my life? I hate you, your husband, your children and your relatives!"

In a manic episode to end all manic episodes, Peggy soon kills her husband, abandons her children, and flees to Mortville, a haven for criminals and outcasts, with her black maid, Grizelda (Jean Hill). Despite such behavior, Stole's view of the character she played is sympathetic. "Poor Peggy," she says with a laugh. "She was very miserable and misunderstood. She was just looking for an escape from being a housewife."

Extreme case

It's easy to see *Desperate Living* as part of the spate of what critic Molly Haskell called, in her seminal book *From Reverence to Rape: The Treatment of Women in the Movies*, the "mad housewife films" of the late '60s and '70s. Haskell was describing movies like *Diary of a Mad Housewife* and *The Rain People*, in which the female protagonists escape the "mind-numbing and soul-destroying confines of domestic duty" by taking a lover (as in *Mad Housewife*) or hitting the road to "find themselves" (as in *Rain People*). With *Desperate Living*'s Peggy Gravel, Waters simply took this archetypal antiheroine to her comic extreme.

Once in Mortville, Peggy and Grizelda become lovers. Stole says Hill was an extremely reluctant lesbian during the filming of their romantic scenes together. Surprisingly, the oral sex scene where the massive actress is sprawled nude on a bed yelling, "Get it, Peggy! Eat it!" didn't bother Hill. Instead, it was the actresses' rather chaste kiss in another scene that repulsed her.

"She kept saying, 'Eeww, I don't

know if I can do that,'" recalls Stole. "Finally, I turned to her and said, 'Jean, your lips are bigger than my head. You have nothing to worry about.'"

Desperate Living ends badly for Stole's character, as did almost all of Waters' early films. "I always knew that I was going to die at the end of those movies," says Stole. "The only question was, which way? How am I going to die this time?" In *Desperate Living*, the answer was with a pistol up her ass, a demise that Waters staged with a bloody verisimilitude.

"When we were filming the scene where I get shot in the butt, John said, 'Lay there for a moment. I'll be right back.' Then I feel something cold on my butt. I realized that he had taken a piece of bloody raw liver and put it on my ass, which he proceeded to shoot in close-up. Fortunately, I had a nice ass at the time."

By the time they made *Desperate Living*, Stole had been working with Waters for a decade. The two Baltimore natives met through a mutual friend while spending a summer in Provincetown in the mid-'60s. Conveniently for budding filmmaker Waters, his new friend was a frustrated actress who jumped at the invitation to appear in his films.

Stole's strict Catholic parents were less enthusiastic about her involvement with the outré filmmaker. "My mother saw one of John's very first films, *Roman Candles*," remembers Stole, "and there's a scene in it with a nun and a priest making out. She was so horrified that she never saw another one of his films until [1981's] *Polyester*."

Divine intervention

Parental disapproval didn't stop Stole from accepting increasingly larger parts in Waters' anarchic underground films. She performed a memorably scary tap dance in 1969's *Mondo Trasho*, and gave Divine a "rosary job" in a church pew in 1970's *Multiple Maniacs*. "Yes, I was a lapsed Catholic by the time I did that," Stole says of that infamous scene.

Those small parts were a mere warm-up for her lead role in the *Citizen Kane* of trash cinema, 1972's *Pink Flamingos*. This was the film that tested Stole's devotion to Waters. When he asked the actress to allow herself to be covered in molasses and feathers on a freezing Baltimore day (for the scene in which her character is tarred and feathered), she reluctantly agreed. But when he asked her to set her hair on fire — her own freshly-dyed, fire-engine red hair, not a wig — Stole finally said



Mink Stole in John Waters' *Desperate Living*

no to Waters.

"He was very angry," recalls Stole. "People don't say no to John, they do whatever he asks of them. It's an amazing gift. Of course, it's frustrating on a personal level, because it's like trying to be friends with the Pope. But on a professional level, it's astonishing."

Waters didn't ask Stole to risk life, limb or tresses while making their next film, 1974's *Female Trouble*. In fact, she calls this the most enjoyable shoot of any Waters movie. It didn't hurt that Stole was playing her favorite role ever, the tantrum-throwing Taffy Davenport. With her too-small party dresses and head of ratty blonde curls, Taffy is a teenager who's still being treated like an unwanted child. She endures starvation, seclusion and beatings with a car aerial, but manages to get back at her abusive mother Dawn (Divine) by being the most insufferable brat imaginable.

To play the role of Taffy, Stole says she drew on classic movie brats like Patty McCormack in *The Bad Seed*, as well as her own childhood of holy terrorism. "I had terrible temper tantrums when I was young. I was a very angry kid, although with far less reason to be than Taffy."

Stole had to content herself with less meaty parts in Waters' subsequent films. At best, she's had scene-stealing supporting roles (1994's *Serial Mom*), and at worst, thankless bit parts (last year's *Cecil B. Demented*). When I

ask why we've watched her screen-time diminish in Waters' films over the last 20 years, Stole would only say, "You'll have to ask John."

It's clear that Stole and Waters have drifted apart. "I adored him and I still do, although we no longer spend much time together," says Stole. "We're on opposite coasts, but even if we were in the same city, the situation probably wouldn't be any different."

Summer 'Games'

With Waters no longer writing star vehicles for her, Stole has attempted to build an acting career apart from the director and Baltimore. She moved to LA a decade ago and has managed to pay the rent with theater and TV work, as well as small parts in indie fea-

Catechism

◀ page 42

would never participate are the ones who end up raising their hands," Donovan said. "Why? Because it's a friendly situation."

It is not, Donovan stresses, anything like the musical *Nunsense* ("a bunch of goofy nuns who can't take care of themselves") or Christopher Durang's biting *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You* (don't even ask what she thinks of that).

Other than a small fuss from a conservative Catholic organization in New York, Donovan has seen her show embraced by nuns, priests, and even a cardinal. "I've done this show for 12,000 religious educators at an arena in Anaheim," she said. "It's a fluffy little love ball for nuns."

Whack-a-mole

Donovan, 47, spent 16 years of her young life learning from the nuns, and while she was hardly a model student, she has come to appreciate their dedication and tenacity. "They had nine months to teach 52 kids to read, write, do math, and make Jesus their personal savior," she said. "Once in a while someone got a whack. You gotta whack a kid every three years or so."

Her interest in theater began in the sixth grade when she wrote a play called *How Leprechauns Came to Be* (they're irresponsible angels). She finally blossomed as a student in college as a theater major. Since she was always drawn to the technical end of theater, her eventual career as a building contractor made sense.

"I did it to make money so I could be in the theater," she said,

tures. Last year, she brightened the otherwise dreary camp comedy *But I'm a Cheerleader*, and this summer she'll turn up in a new MTV soap, *Spyder Games*.

"I play a recurring supporting role [on *Spyder Games*]. I'm over 20, so I can't be featured every minute. This is MTV we're talking about!"

Stole feels taking up digs in LA was the right move. "The biggest problem I have with Baltimore is that it's so small," she complains. "It's a very small town. I get claustrophobic there. Here in Los Angeles, I'm still meeting people that I like. Periodically, I will have this wonderful new person come into my life, and that just wasn't happening in Baltimore."

Relationship-wise, Stole has come to the disheartening realization that she's straight. "I tried to be gay," she stresses. "Lord knows I tried. I mean, if being gay were a choice, I would so be there. There's a woman in my life right now that, were I gay, I'd marry in a heartbeat, but it just isn't going to happen."

She may be hopelessly heterosexual and have an acting career that is small potatoes in comparison to her childhood aspirations, but Stole is still quite happy with her life at the moment. "When I was young, my dream was to grow up to be a movie star and live in New York and walk panthers down Fifth Ave. So maybe, as it turns out, I live in LA, not New York, and I don't have any panthers. But I am an actress, and I have a life here that I love. I feel very fortunate." ▼

Mink Stole appears Saturday, June 9 at the Bridge Theatre for opening night of the 4th annual *Midnight Mass* with hostess Peaches Christ.

Pre-show entertainment begins at midnight, followed by a screening of *Desperate Living*. Info: call 751-3213.

"but it overtook my life for awhile. I had five crews going at once, and the phone started ringing at five in the morning. I was good at it, but it was a shitload of work."

Donovan had scaled back by the time *Late Nite Catechism* opened as a weekend show intended for just 12 performances at a small Chicago theater. Friends had encouraged her to do something with her encyclopedic knowledge of the saints' lives, which she can relate in both funny and gruesome detail.

Back then, the show was known as *Late Nite Catechism: Saints, Sisters, and Ejaculations*, using the name of a short prayer for a saucy double entendre. "When we got picked up for a commercial run, the producers said, 'Drop it,' and we said, 'No problem. You're gonna put us in Boston, we'll drop it.'"

Donovan knows that gay people, among others, have considerable reservations about many of the Catholic Church's teachings. But the show's demographics, she said, "are women 35 to death and homosexuals."

When *Late Nite Catechism* turned into big business, Donovan hung up her tool belt. The only contracting Donovan is doing these days is on her new home in Los Angeles. She lives there with her girlfriend, their three dogs, and three vintage cars: a Lincoln and two Cadillacs.



"I can't believe everyone doesn't say this is the best city in America," Donovan said. "I mean, I saw Elton John on my corner." ▼

Late Nite Catechism opens June 13 at the Union Square Playhouse. Tickets are \$39. Call (877) FUNNY-NUN.

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BOOKS

Smart girls

'Fast-Talking Dames' from Yale

by Tavo Amador

Determining how much popular culture reflects society versus how much it influences it is a question hotly debated but rarely answered satisfactorily. In *Fast-Talking Dames* (Yale University Press, \$27.95), author Maria DiBattista offers her response in a serious analysis of funny actresses who provided her and others with real-life role models.

The book addresses the arrival of a new woman in films, one who contrasted sharply with the screen's virginal heroines, languorous vamps, and wild flappers prevalent before the mid-'30s. What distinguished this new woman, DiBattista argues, was her ability with words — the speed with which she talked, the independence and intelligence reflected in her speech. All of this made her sexy and appealing. Her heyday was short — by the end of the '40s, the fast-talking dame had become a rarity, although the type never died out altogether.

Certainly the advent of talking films called for actresses different from those who dominated the Silent Era. Mary Pickford, Theda Bara and Clara Bow gave way to Jean Harlow, Katharine Hepburn and Barbara Stanwyck, although stars like Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford and Greta Garbo survived and flourished. But the era chronicled by DiBattista did produce a group of remarkable comedienne, actresses whose ability with dialogue is unsurpassed. She focuses her book on a handful of them and their key roles, arguing exhaustively to establish her thesis that their ability with words made them attractive.

That she fails to prove her case consistently is less important than the welcome attention she brings to these stars. Her discussion of Ginger Rogers, for example, focuses on her fine work away from Fred Astaire. Rogers frequently played working-class women, but unlike Stanwyck or Crawford, she seldom seemed angry about it. She was cheerful and, sometimes, exceptionally funny, as her team-

ing with the patrician Hepburn in 1937's *Stage Door* shows. Her repartee is dazzling — it's impossible to decide which actress is better.

Equally valuable is DiBattista's discussion of Stanwyck's excellent comic performances in *The Lady Eve* and *Ball of Fire* (both 1941). Remembered more for her noirish femme fatales, Stanwyck handled comedy brilliantly. The author also shines her critical light on the almost forgotten Jean Arthur, who superbly showed Gary Cooper in *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936) and James Stewart in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939) the ways of a cynical world.

TGIF?

The epitome of the fast-talking dame is Rosalind Russell's Hildy Johnson in Howard Hawks' *His Girl Friday* (1940). DiBattista's assertion that the speed with which Russell delivered the Ben Hecht-Charles MacArthur dialogue was unrivaled is indisputable. But whether this made her sexy to most men is problematic. Yes, she did get Cary Grant at the end of the film, but how many males in the audience then really preferred her to Rita Hayworth, for example? That the part was originally written for and played by a man (Pat O'Brien) in the 1931 version, and portrayed by Jack Lemmon in the third version, is something DiBattista acknowledges but dismisses with some



convoluted prose.

Furthermore, several of the most attractive fast-talking dames — Harlow, Carole Lombard, Claudette Colbert — were already well-established sex symbols before their considerable comedic gifts brought them new accolades. On the other hand, funny dialogue liberated Myrna Loy from playing Oriental vamps, transforming her into the screen's most amusing wife, as Nora Charles in *The Thin Man* series. But, despite DiBattista's claims to the contrary, even the talented Arthur couldn't compete against Marlene Dietrich's allure in *A Foreign Affair* (1948).

While acknowledging that most of the writers and all of the directors responsible for this new breed of heroine were men, DiBattista does not tackle the thorny subject of whether the heroines were creations of men. These gifted actresses certainly were important — Philip Barry tailored *Holiday* (1938) and *The Philadelphia Story* (1940) to Hepburn's dazzling

comic skills — but most performers did not write their own material. One that did, Mae West, is excluded from this study, because, although she could handle dialogue brilliantly, she was never in much of a hurry. Her *zafitig*, Gay Nineties persona was quite removed from, say, Irene Dunne's contemporary, witty *My Favorite Wife* (1940).

Less depth and more breadth would have served the reader better. Missing are such sensational fast- and smart-talking dames as Ann Sothern, Lucille Ball, Eve Arden, Ann Sheridan, and Joan Blondell. DiBattista ignores the impact gay director George Cukor had on Russell's career by casting her as the ultimate bitch in the often-hilarious *The Women* (1939), a film she barely mentions, even though it was based on a play by Claire Booth Luce and adapted for the movies by Anita Loos. Similarly, she ignores Pauline Kael's assertion that the men Grant played — characters often romantically pursued by aggressive fast-talking dame — was a subtle indication of his bisexuality. Since he is the leading man most frequently appearing in these pages, that silence is surprising — and disappointing.

While the book presents a more thorough analysis of specific films than most readers want, it does much to reclaim a remarkable movie genre, while paying homage to a bevy of stylish actresses who can still make us laugh. ▼

Sister act

'Black Narcissus' on DVD

by Gary Morris

In Craig McCall's short documentary *Painting with Light*, included on Criterion's fabulous new DVD of *Black Narcissus*, Kathleen Byron, who plays the mad nun in the film, says of director Michael Powell, "He gave me half of my performance with the lighting." This comment, an unnecessarily modest one given Byron's brilliant impersonation of Sister Ruth, points up both the pleasures and pitfalls of the film. Splendidly presented in a new digital transfer on a DVD loaded with extras, *Black Narcissus* is one of the high points of color design and lighting in cinema. But Powell's formal manipulations come at a price. Mesmerizing to look at, involving and inevitable as a dream, the film also has an underlying mechanistic quality, a focus on the look and sound at the expense of the characters, that makes it ultimately more a brilliant oddity than the classic melodrama it aspires to be.

Based on a popular 1939 novel by Rumer Godden, *Black Narcissus*, scripted by Powell's longtime collaborator Emeric Pressburger, is set in Mopu, at the base of the Himalayas. While Godden was praised for the authenticity of her book — no surprise given her years of living in colonial India — Powell took the radical step of shooting the entire film on sets, at Pinewood Studios. This was one of many extremes in a film that would meticulously recreate the lighting of classic painters, gleefully attack such sacred cows as nuns' vows, and in one legendary sequence match the actors' movements to an elaborate piece of music.

The story follows the attempts by five missionary nuns to establish an order in a remote, faded palace (formerly a house of courtesans) donated by a thoughtful general. The sisters are quickly



Deborah Kerr is Sister Superior

overwhelmed by the privations of this place, 9,000 feet up and perched on a precipice. The locals are suspicious to hostile, regarding the nuns as curiosities who will soon vanish. The local government agent, Mr. Dean (David Farrar), upon whom their existence depends, is sarcastic and, more disturbingly, sexy in his walking shorts and no shirt. And the whole atmosphere is "strange," as one of the sisters says, frightening them with images like the silent Holy Man on the mountain, tempting them with worldly pleasures, and suggesting more exciting ways of living in the world than as brides o' Christ.

Ruthless behavior

The sisters' insular world is also under attack from within. The leader, Sister Clodagh (Deborah Kerr), takes her role as "Sister Superior" too literally; Sister Philippa (Flora Robson), a gardener, begins to lose her grip, planting flowers instead of desperately needed vegetables; Sister Honey (Jenny Laird) invokes the wrath of the locals by administering medicine to a sick baby, whose death is then attributed to her. Most problematic is Sister Ruth (Kathleen

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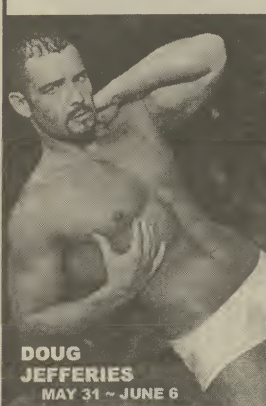
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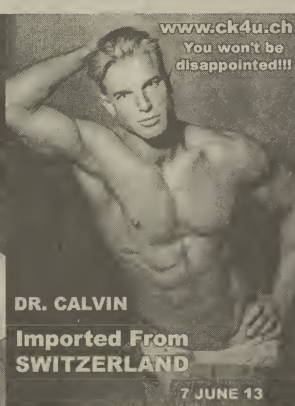
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Faerie films

By magic, I was invited to an advance screening of entries for **The First Annual Radical Faerie Film Festival**, a program of shorts "by or related to self-identified faeries" to be presented this Saturday, June 9, at 848 Community Space.

It should be a fascinating crowd. At the preview, about a dozen semi-naked, colorfully adorned, frolicking faeries lounged about or did yoga as they patiently viewed and commented on film/video entries their faerie brethren and sistren had submitted for due consideration.

Present among us in spirit was none other than Venusian poet **Haia Ted Berk**, gray-haired, roly poly and insistently reciting his out-of-this-galaxy verse. He's one of the anchors of the faerie community — free-floating as he is in his own occult universe — and it is owing to this august eminence that the first-ever faerie film fest will be screening a 1960s psychedelico-art treasure, *Kusama's Self Obliteration* (1967; 16mm; 23 min.).

With artistic direction by Japanese artist **Yayoi Kusama** (born 1929), who came to prominence in the New York art world of the 1960s and is now considered "an iconic artistic figure of her generation" (www.yorku.ca/aya/exhibits/kusama.htm), *Self Obliteration* was shot and edited by **Jud Yalkut**. This acid-flashback of a happening, praised by Yoko Ono, is a true rarity and counterculture gem. It begins with dots — such as those of magic mushrooms — painted on everything, taking off on horses across pasture, covering a pond, engulfing cities and then somehow dissolving into a mass of writhing, paint-drenched nudes.

Festival organizer/filmmaker **Blue Moor** obtained the film from Haia, who had created the film's free-form, beyond-rock sound-track with his band, the Citizens for Interplanetary Activity (CIA), which played on bills with Big Brother and the Holding Company (at the Rock Garden on Mission St. in SF), Procal Harum, and Simon and Garfunkel (at Fillmore East in NYC). The sonic buzz through the film is as mind-spinning as the imagery.

Haia himself will be the focus of *Haia the Messenger*, a film by **Earl Blue**, showing the fleet-footed elderly messenger going about his business downtown, reciting verse for the suits in their corporate towers as he hands them their parcels.

Also on the bill are *FaerieFilm*, a fully animated piece by seven New York faeries in the early 1990s; *The Garbage Man* by **Twoturtles**, a politically motivated film that attempts visually to describe the smell of greed; *Bykes* by **Mary C. Matthews**, wherein lesbian bykers battle to the death; *Do It In The Dirt*, a music video featuring **Enrique**, directed by **Mark Kleim** (Lavender Lounge); *Wash this way*, by **Wyn**; *The Bong Show* by **Couch Queen Productions**; and *Queer's Queers*, a personal statement by **Jim Hankle** about the queers in his life. ▼

The First Annual Radical Faerie Film Festival takes place 8-11 p.m. on Sat., June 9 at 848 Divisadero St. Tickets are \$5-\$20 (NOTAFLOF). Faerie art will be exhibited. Garrin Benfield will play live. DJ Buttercup will spin.

Fri

SomArts

National Queer Arts Festival presents comedian Marga Gomez in "Higher Hugs, Lower Lows," and performance artist Felice Shays in "PsychoSemitic." \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Also on June 9, 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

National Queer Arts Festival presents AIRspace artist Craig Acosta Rowe in "The Day I Kissed Mike Sanchez." \$7-\$12 sliding. 8pm. 4235 19th St. Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Asian Art Museum

"Real To Real," an ongoing showcase of Buddhist-influenced films, presents director Paul Wagner's *Windhorse*, secretly filmed inside Tibet, as well as in Kathmandu and in remote locations 12,500 feet up in the Himalayas. Introduced by noted Buddhist teacher Yvonne Rand. Co-sponsored by the SF Zen Center. \$7. 7:30pm. Golden Gate Park. Info: 863-3133; sfzc.org/asianart.org

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace artists-in-residence Zachary Barnett and Dwayne Calizo and their multimedia performance company Ghost Town present a workshop production of "The Queen's Rain," written by Barnett with music by Calizo. It's a surrealist, underwater, slapstick love story combining traditional narrative with modern dance, electronic orchestration, vocal composition, video and animation. Audience/artist discussion follows. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402.

AHP Services Center

AIDS Health Project Video Night, featuring videos exploring gay history from a San Francisco perspective. View all or parts of *The Word is Out*; *Gay in the USA*; *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*; *Tales of the City*, and more. Tell your story and hear others. All welcome regardless of HIV status. Free. 6:30-9pm. 1930 Market St. Info/RSVP: 476-6448, ext. 3.

GLBT Historical Society

Opening reception: "Moments in Time from the 20th Century: The Photography of Virginia Benavidez," including portraits of friends and people in Benavidez's life, and images of Native American pow wows, women of color, and the Bay Area's Latino/a and queer communities. The diversity in her work reflects Benavidez's own identity as a lesbian of mixed-blood ancestry. Free. 6-9pm. 973 Market St. (at 6th St.), Suite 400. Info: 777-5455; www.glbthistory.org

Potrero Hill Playhouse

Last Planet Theatre presents the Bay Area premiere of Craig Lucas's *The Dying Gaul*, a hallucinatory play about a screenwriter who — after losing his lover to AIDS — decides that murder might be the surest path to enlightenment. \$20 opening night; other nights \$12-\$15. Thru June 30. 8pm. 953 DeHaro St. (near 22nd St.). Tix/info:



My Hollywood Friends: Photographs from the Estate of Roddy McDowall, an exhibit to benefit Q-Spirit, takes place at Thomas Reynolds Gallery. See Wednesday.

(510) 845-2687; www.lastplanettheatre.com

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

In concert: Barbara Price Productions presents women's music icon Margie Adam, who helped pave the way for strong independent women's voices in the music industry. \$20 adv.; \$23 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Info/tix: (510) 339-1832.

Marlena's

Mark Paladini and Tom Bash present "performANCE," a benefit show to raise funds for Tenderloin Ties Holiday Dinner programs. While Marlena's is known for its female impersonators, tonight the tables get turned with a special showing of male performers in everything from singing to magic and comedy. No cover (patrons encouraged to take part in raffle). 9pm-midnight. Hayes & Gough.

Sat

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

National Queer Arts Festival presents AIRspace artist Trauma Flintstone and Steven LeMay in "A Return to the Caffé Cino, Part I — The Madness of Lady Bright," by Lanford Wilson and Bittersweet Eros, a one-act travesty based on Terrence McNally's play *Sweet Eros*. \$7-\$12 sliding. 8pm. 4235 19th St. Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

SomArts

Internationally exhibited photographer Laurie Toby Edison presents "The Body, the Nude, Gender, and Sex," a slide show and conversation, including images from *Familiar Men: A Book of Male Nudes* and *Women En Large: Images of Fat Nudes*. Her nude portraits of real people in their own settings provide a new nexus for discussion of sex and gender. \$10-\$15.

2pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

San José Gay Pride

"Free Community Day in the Park," noon-6pm, with entertainment, food, beverages, arts & crafts and gay family fun. Performers include singer/songwriter Mark Weigle (4:30pm) and queercore band Pansy Division (5:15pm). Discovery Meadow, next to the Children's Discovery Museum, corner of San Carlos and Woz Way in downtown San José. Info: www.SJ-GayPride.com

The Usual, San José

Club Papi presents "San José Gay Pride Latin Pre-Party," with live dance music by Thea Austin of Snap and special guest DJ Mijangos of Mexico. Go-go's galore. Complimentary appetizer buffet. \$15. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/d. 400 S. 1st St., downtown San José. Info: (408) 793-0113; www.papipresents.com

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Santa Rosa

"We Mean It!" Productions presents the "7th Annual Sonoma County Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Pride Comedy Night," featuring four "out-ra-



Paintings by Scooter adorn the walls of Rayon Vert, a Mission District boutique. See Thursday.

geous" comics for four flavors of laughter: Danny Williams, Vickie Shaw, Dan Rothenberg, and Julie Goldman. ASL interpreted by Jennifer Jacobs and friends. \$15 (\$30 gold tickets include best seats and a meet-the-comics reception after show). 8pm. Tix: (707) 546-3600. Info: (707) 824-0335; wemeanit.net

Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa

"The Health & Harmony Saturday Night Techno-Tribal Community Dance," featuring live dance music by Lumin (electro-acoustic world music); Medicine Drum with Great Spirit (Native American techno/tribal); and Hawaiian trance-dance band Lost At Last. Also: the Oddvillian Side Show, light shows, aerialists, magic and more. \$15 adv.; \$20 door. Lumin plays at 7pm. Party till 1am. All ages. Grace Pavilion (next to the Health & Harmony Festival off Hwy. 12). Tix/info: (866) 468-3399; harmonyfestival.com; mysticbeatlounge.com

Herbst Theatre

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy presents "The 3rd Annual Funny Girl: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor," featuring a stellar lineup of funny women, including Bridget Schwartz, Elvira Kurt, Lisa Geduldig, Page Hurwitz, René Hicks, Yayne Ababa, and Latina Theatre Lab. Partial proceeds benefit the Homeless Prenatal Program's effort to construct a building on its property in the Mission District. \$20 & \$25. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400; tickets.com. Info: 522-3737; koshercomedy.com

Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Special benefit performance: "The Laramie Project," by Moisés Kaufman and the

members of Tectonic Theatre Project, the play that explores the killing of Matthew Shepard and the town where he died. Proceeds support Our Family, the Bay Area LGBT Family Group. \$75 & \$125 (w/wine & hors d'oeuvres); \$250 (w/reception & dinner); and \$50 (no-frills matinee). 2pm & 8pm. 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 540-7784; www.ourfamily.org

Noh Space

Yugen Presents "Music and Dance Excerpts from Crazy Horse," a contemporary musical play that fuses Native American beauty and spirituality with Japanese Noh theater form. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (btwn Alabama & Florida). Tix: 621-7978.

Theater Artaud

Dance-Network present highly acclaimed Butoh dancer Akira Kasai, direct from Tokyo, performing "Pollen (Kafun)," a duet with Petra Vermeersch. \$25. 8pm. Also on June 10, 450 Florida St. (at 17th St.). Tix: 621-7797.

Landmark's Bridge Theatre

Peaches Christ hosts "Midnight Mass," screenings of midnight movies complete with costumes, live performances, celebrity guests and more. Tonight: cult film star Mink Stole joins Peaches on stage to discuss her notorious film career, including appearances in every John Waters film. She introduces *Desperate Living*, Waters' unbelievably grotesque comedy, starring Mink Stole as a middle-class murderess who, along with her 400-lb. maid, finds refuge in a village full of criminals. \$7. Midnight. 310 Geary Blvd. Info: 751-3213.

Westin St. Francis Hotel

Absolute Vodka presents "The



Virginia Benavidez's *Moments in Time from the 20th Century* will be exhibited at the GLBT Historical Society. See Friday.

12th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, honoring individuals and projects in the media and entertainment industries for their fair, accurate and inclusive representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and issues. Lily Tomlin will present the Davidson/Valenti Award to filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Frameline will receive the Pioneer Award. \$200 & \$375. 6pm cocktails & silent auction; 7:30pm dinner & presentation. 335 Powell St. Tix: (888) 655-6529; (310) 201-5033.

Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, Oakland

Storyteller Susan Kay Gilbert presents "A Life Story in Progress" in honor of lesbian pride. Free (donations welcome). 7pm. 530 Lakepark Ave. (near the Grand Lake Theatre), Oakland. Info: (510) 23-2301.

177 Townsend

Club Universe welcomes New York DJ/Producer Guido of the well-known duo Razor & Guido, marking the release of *Dancefloor*, a full-length dance album on the Groovious Records label. This is Guido's fourth visit to SF, where he has already captured a large following. Also featuring resident DJs David Harness and Matthew Baker. \$14. Doors open 9:30pm; dance till 7am. 21+w/D. Info: clubuniverse.com

Sun

San José Gay Pride

The "Stronger, Louder, Prouder" San José Gay Pride Parade starts at 9:30am and proceeds down Market Street between St. John and W. San Carlos St., led by Parade Goddess Judy Tenuta. The Festival runs 11am-7pm with entertainment by RuPaul ("Supermodel"), Amber ("Sexual"), comedian Judy Tenuta, Evelyn Champagne King ("Shame"), Julio Bravo Salsa Band, Patsy Cline & the G-Spots, and much more. \$10 at gate. Discovery Meadow, next to the Children's Discovery Museum, corner of San Carlos and Woz Way in downtown San José. Info: www.SJ-GayPride.com

The Usual, San José

Club Papi presents "Club Miami: San José Gay Pride Women's After Party." \$10. 8pm-2am. 21+w/D. 400 S. 1st St., downtown San José. Info: (408) 793-0333; www.papipresents.com

Upper Haight Street

The 24th Annual Haight-Ashbury Street Fair kicks off a day of music, arts and crafts and food along the five blocks of Haight St. from Masonic to Stanyan streets. Two stages with live bands playing rock, reggae, jazz, blues, big band and other stuff. 11am-5:30pm. Info: 666-9952.

GLBT Historical Society

Roundtable: "Mixed-Blood: Multiracial Identity in the Queer Community," co-sponsored by Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS), in conjunction with the exhibition "Moments in Time From the 20th Century: The Photographs of Virginia Beaudet." Free. 2-4pm. 973 Market St., Suite 400. Info: 777-5455.

SomArts

National Queer Arts Festival presents spoken-word performance artists Sinj Anderson, Eileen Myles, and Kris Kovick. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Santa Rosa

Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration. The noon parade — with floats, politicians, dykes on bikes, and many contingents — heads from downtown Santa Rosa on Mendocino Ave. from First St. to the Santa Rosa Junior College Campus. There the celebration's entertainment line-up includes Seraph, Garrin Benfield, Linda Low, Jallen Rix, the Virginettes, and Jason Serinus, with Brenda Allen as MC. Also: Bingo with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (2-4pm) in the Doyle Student Lounge; martial arts demonstrations by the Triangle Taekwon Do Club of SF and New School Aikido in Santa Rosa. Quilt display in Tauzer Gymnasium. 1-5pm. Info: (707) 524-9830; www.sonomapride.com

Marlena's/Lee*Ona's/RendezVus/Martuni's

The Baron of Musical Theatre, Chuck Largent, presents "A Magical Musical Bus Tour," a benefit for Sunburst Project (children with AIDS) and The Ducal Court Fund. 4 bars; eight drinks; three 1/2-hour shows; nitecap at Marlena's with dessert. Featuring Greg Osmon, Angelina, Suzie Wong, Davida, Gail Wood, Donald Woods, Tiger Lily, Kristy Cruise, Collette La Grande and The Baron's Singers. \$60 (\$30 w/no-host bar). Start at Marlena's at 3:15pm. Info: Chuck at 503-1585.

Mon

Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by Blake. With Pippil Lovestocking, Regina Stoops, Dan Rothenberg, David guiney, Amma, Angie Crass, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610. No reservations required.

The Plush Room

Christopher Copeland Productions with V.B. Stadlin presents "Showtime On Broadway," starring John McCullough, a tenor with the SF Gay Men's Chorus; Jana Keeler, a great stylist of cabaret and jazz standards, Chris Sorensen, Martha Brown, and Bradley Cotton. With Musical Director Barry Lloyd. \$15. 8pm. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (at Leavenworth). Tix: 885-2800.

Tue

Bethany United Methodist

In concert: the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band performs "In Storm & Sunshine," a rousing mix of music for Pride month. Conducted by Artistic Director Jadine Louie. The program includes the finale from Dvorak's "New World Symphony," Del Borgo's "Do Not Go Gentle Into that Good Night," Chance's "Variations on a Korean Folk Song," Bremer's "Early Light," Zdech-nik's "Chorale & Shaker Dance," and Heed's "In Storm & Sunshine." The SFLGB is a resident program of the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. Free. 8:15pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper).

Dancers' Group Studio theater

SF Lesbian & Gay Dance Festival presents "An Evening of Queer Dance Films," featuring "Visitor & Framed" by Yannis Adoniou, "Nuderrude" by Tomi Paasonen, "Atlanta" by



Akira Kasai dances Pollen (Kafun) at Theater Artaud. See Saturday.

Samuel Topiary, and "Can You See Me Flying: A Portrait of Terry Sendgraff" by Fawn Yacker. \$5. 7:30pm. 3221 22nd St. Info: 826-4401.

The Stud

Trannyshack's not-yet-over-the-hill hostess Heklina celebrates "A Night at CBGB's" in honor of her seventeenth birthday. Co-hosting the party will be Miss Trannyshack 2000, Vinsantos, as Wendy O. Williams. Be sure to give Heklina a birthday spunk! \$6. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison.

Wed

Jon Sims Center

National Queer Arts Festival presents "An Evening of Poetry with Forrest Hamer and D.A. Powell." Both poets have been widely published in anthologies, literary journals, and books, including Hamer's *Call & Response* and *Middle Ear*, and Powell's *Tea and Lunch*. Hamer is an Oakland psychologist and lecturer at UC-Berkeley; Powell has been appointed Briggs-Copeland Lecturer in Poetry at Harvard University. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Tix: 554-0402.

Thomas

Reynolds Gallery

Opening reception: "My Hollywood Friends: Photographs from the Estate of Roddy McDowall," a benefit for Q-Spirit, a nonprofit organization promoting personal growth and spiritual development in the GLBT community. Featuring portraits of friends of movie actor Roddy McDowall (1928-1998), most of them one-of-a-kind prints never released for public reproduction. The event is courtesy of the estate of David Charlsen. Live music by pianist/composer Gary Bass ("Rising"). 7-9pm. 2291 Pine St. (at Fillmore). Info: 441-4093.

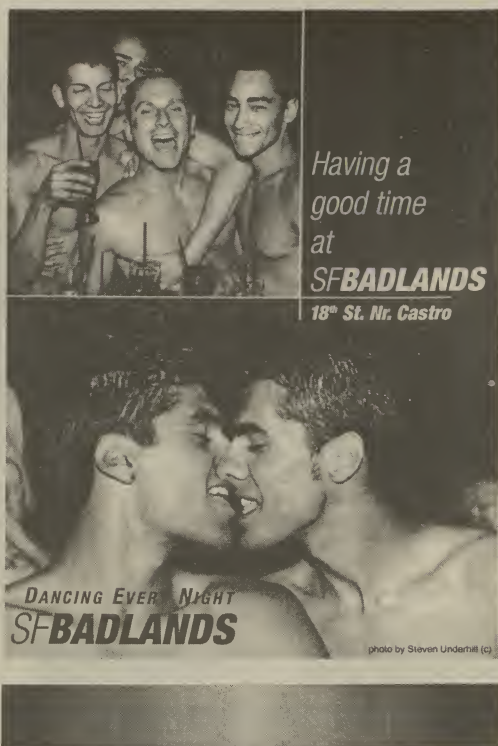
New Conservatory Theatre Center

Postponed: "A Conversation With Terrence McNally," part of the National Queer Arts Festival — rescheduled to November 5 so that McNally can complete his new musical "A Man of No Importance." Info: NCTC, 861-8972.

Thu

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Opening night gala: Frameline's 25th annual SF International Lesbian & Gay Film



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photo by Steven Underhill (c)

Festival. Screening of *Metrosexuality*, directed by Rikki Beadle-Blair, a new TV series from England's Channel Four. \$100 gen'l.; \$75 members. Film at 8:30pm. Gala celebration kicks in after the credits roll. Mission & Third streets. Tix: (925) 275-9490; www.frameline.org/festival; 557 Castro St.

Castro Theatre

Opening night gala: Frameline's 25th annual SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Screening of *Gaudi Afternoon*, directed by Susan Seidelman (*Desperately Seeking Susan*; *Sex and the City*). Starring Judy Davis, Lili Taylor, Juliette Lewis, and Marcia Gay Harden. Post-screening transportation to gala at Yerba Buena Center via MUNI's F trolley line and surface buses. Showtime: 7:30pm. \$100 gen'l.; \$75 members. Tix: (925) 275-9490; www.frameline.org/festival; 557 Castro St.

Rayon Vert

Opening reception: "Failure is not a Punishment," a new series of paintings by Scooter, one of the leading lights in the queer art scene, whose perspective is influenced by the world of drag queens, Tenderloin street life, hustlers and prostitutes. Champagne served. 6-9pm. 3187 16th St. (at Guerrero). Info: 861-3516.

Eros

The STOP AIDS Project presents "LeatherFUCK: The Joy of Piercing," a workshop for all interested gay/bi/trans men. Hosted by Tony Koester. A chance for men who are into, curious about or exploring piercing (permanent or play) and making sex safer and sane. Find out things you didn't know and watch a live demonstration on consenting models by Gotham Body Piercing. Free. 7pm. 2051 Market St. (near Church St.). Info/sign-up: 575-0150; www.stopaids.org

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Lowdown on IML 2001

by Mister Marcus

More than a thousand tales came from the IML 2001 weekend in Chicago, most of which I will never repeat publicly. For those with prurient interests, however — and I know you're out there! — here are a few anecdotes that will make you smile and/or throw your arms up in shock and dismay.

But first, some facts about International Mr. Leather 2001:

It took 327 volunteers to make the weekend a success, many working for months before the actual weekend and many more making it a smooth, slick presentation for the attendees. Bill Stadt, the big honcho of the whole weekend was ecstatic with the feedback he got from many of you.

The IML 2001 judges sat through a whopping 16 hours of interviews of the 63 contestants (it has been proposed that the IML producers furnish the IML judges with a butt masseur). There was a lot of laughter, along with seriousness and weeping. The men who competed came to a self-realization of their leather lifestyle(s) when questioned by the judges. And yes, at least half a dozen of them broke down in tears when relating the answers to questions.

The final question put to each contestant was by IML Mike Taylor: "You have had time to meet all your fellow contestants, networking, bonding, etc. Of all of them, do you think you are the best man to hold the IML 2001 title?"

Out of 63 contestants, 11 said "No" for various reasons: health, job, etc. Of course, the judges wanted to hear "Yes".

The months and weeks preceding IML 2001 saw a monumental exchange of email and digital photos between the IML judges and the contestants. So much so that one judge sent out a mass mailing to "stop already" — that judge had run out of paper, ink cartridges and patience, not to mention experiencing eye strain from reading all that material. So on Friday night, all the contestants



IML Executive Director and Founder of IML Chuck Renslow (far left) embraces his new leather triad (L. to R.): Houston Davenport (2nd runner-up); Stefan Mueller, IML 2001; and 1st runner-up Darrell Moyers. They competed in Chicago last Sunday, May 27.

summoned the judges and they were all given computer ink cartridges to replace those depleted by the lengthy email responses. Hey thanks, guys!

The inside scoop



Bazaar

Some of you may recall that at IML 1988, during the jock judging, the strap on Brian Dawson's jock accidentally unsnapped causing a loud cheer from the audience. He quickly snapped it back together. Well, the same thing happened to Mr. SF Leather Houston Davenport in the preliminary jock competition on Friday night in the host hotel! And by the way, our Houston suddenly developed a keen interest in Canadian bacon — he was seen all weekend constantly in the company of that hot, hot Remi Collette, he who was the first runner-up at the Mr. Leather Toronto competition last November. Are you reading this Patti Brown?

There were all sorts of "specialty" parties both in and out of the hotel, and IML David Kloss and IML Bruce Chopnik decided to visit one of them — alas, they returned to the lobby post haste, and when I asked them why, they both ventured: "Too many 'sisters' were there". Oh, I see.

I rode on the same plane to Chicago as Vince Finkowski, but didn't see him all weekend. Vince confessed that although he had the weekend package, he eschewed all the IML activities and instead "played" all weekend in his room! That's how plentiful "meat on the hoof" was, roaming the halls, tea rooms, stairwells and suites.

The All-California party put together by the brilliant entrepreneurial expertise of Mark Malan (Perle Mesta of all Southern California) was a smashing hit. Over a dozen IML contestants from throughout the state were introduced, and various holy cows expounded at the mike. It was right up there in popularity with the SF party, Maple Leaf, Onyx Dance Extravaganza and other parties.

One former IML was so undone that the contestant he coached/mentored throughout did not win, he was in a swoon/vapors and had to be carried off the bus from the contest and carried in to the hotel. For all his superiority in the leather community, he might like to know that his contestant was not even in the top 20 at the end of the pre-judging. For the most part, the other contestants were satisfied with the winner, and their opinion

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E V E N T U R E S I N L E A T H E R

Weekend, June 7-10

Southeast Leather Fest in Atlanta, Georgia. Besides a leather mart, workshops, play parties, they will be choosing Southeast Drummer Man and Drummer Boy as well as the International Master & slave. I will be judging along with Queen Cougar and others. Results and photos here exclusively next week.

In Washington, the Potomac MC stages the DC Drummer and Drummer Boy contests. Winners will compete at the Mid-Atlantic Drummer competition in Baltimore in July.

Up in Guerneville, the Russian River Mr. Drummer & Boy will be chosen at the RushRiv Eagle on Saturday night, which includes a jock strap auction.

In Chicago, a weekend long 6th Anniversary celebration at the world-famous Cell Block. Thanks and best wishes for all future success to Roger, David, Patti Brown and all the staff of the Cell Block.

Saturday, June 10

Fetish Night event at the Loading Dock presented by the ACLC and Mr. ACL Jeff Miranda with a \$5 beer/soda bust, fetish demo and 50/50 raffle at 2200. For more info call (510) 851-1073.

Wednesday, June 13

Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. Doors open

2000-2200. Let it flow and don't even try to stay dry. For more info, call (415) 863-HEAD.

Friday, June 15

Exiles of SF monthly gathering tonight includes info on SAMS — smart assed masochists — and brats, moderated by Anne Williams. Doors open 1930; program at 2000. At the Women's Building, of course (18th St. at Valencia). Parking is scarce.

Saturday, June 16

In NY, Leather Pride Night at The Roxy (515 West 18th St.) the 18th annual event that raises much needed cash for NY charities. Always a great night. For more info: www.leatherpridenight.org.

In San Francisco, Boot & Bondage party at the usual location at 2130, a private event for men in to boots, bondage, oral, SM and fun. For more info: click on: www.best.com/~mchester/boot.html.

Sunday, June 17

In NYC, it's the 5th annual Folsom Street East street fair (Washington at West 13th St.), appropriately named "Meat" — it is, after all in the meat packing district. 10,000 people attended last year. Also

In San Francisco, Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1600-2000 for a mere \$7 (and hot dogs!)

FILM

Mr. Moulin Rouge

Writer/director Baz Luhrmann describes his cinematic spectacle

by Bradley David

The new movie *Moulin Rouge*, starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, has been called everything from an ultra-contemporary musical to a postmodern opera to an elaborate two-hour MTV video. Nobody, it seems — let alone the critics — can agree on exactly what the kaleidoscopic movie is. Well, who better to ask than the man who wrote and directed the film?

"What it is is a very simple story set in a heightened creative world," says Baz Luhrmann (pronounced like jazz). "The resonance and complexity is the musicalization of it — that's where it fattens up. The bottom line is that we're telling a story through music."

Luhrmann, whose other major films include *Strictly Ballroom* and his 1996 version of *Romeo and Juliet* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, was born and raised in Australia and attended the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Arts in Sydney. His background includes extensive work in opera — in 1990, he staged a critically-acclaimed production of Puccini's *La Bohème* set in the 1950s.

"I've always had a love of musicals and music," he says. "I grew up in a really tiny place in the middle of absolutely nowhere. We owned a gas station and the farm and, in fact, we had a cinema for a short while. This thing of seeing story told through music and artifice — using artifice to feel — that was always something that I really loved. I just assumed that was going to happen again — that someone was going to come along and deal with how to make a cinematic language for this moment in this time to tell stories through music."

He didn't know that someone would be him. He sees his three



Luhrmann, ever the perfectionist

major films as a trilogy and says that *Moulin Rouge* is the last one he will be doing in this musical style.

"These three films, they are based on some basic rules," he says. "One, they are simple-story primary myths. *Strictly Ballroom* is David and Goliath and overcoming oppression. *Romeo and Juliet* is love and conflict with society. For me, the kind of story I needed to deal with was not the sort of blind white light of over-coming impossible odds and a happy ending, but the maturing story of the Orpheus myth — and I do this by going into an underworld and coming to that moment when you realize there are things you cannot control. People die. Relationships cannot be. And then not being crushed by that — moving on, having grown internally for what you've given up, for the gifts of youth."

Sounds of music

Deciding on Bohemian Paris circa 1900, Luhrmann went to Paris and began a massive research project. Then came what he calls the musicalization of the

plot. The score features popular music from the 20th century — everything from *The Sound of Music* to the hot remake of "Lady Marmalade." One memorable scene in the movie features Kidman and McGregor in a duet of the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love," Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You," and Elton John's "Your Song," interspersed with bits of familiar songs from Phil Collins, U2, David Bowie and Brian Eno.

"Although I'm sure the film looks a bit like 'Baz's favorite records strung together by a plot,' it's the inversion of that," he says. "It's actually a meticulous and relentless assessment of the musical pieces that will articulate and reveal and illuminate those particular dramatic moments."

Luhrmann says that telling a story through music as a way to open a window on another time is a very old idea.

"You know, Judy Garland sings 'Clang, clang, clang went the trolley' in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and that was a film set in 1900," he says. "She's singing big-band radio music — the equivalent of Beck and Missy Elliott off the radio. It's pop music. They wouldn't have sung 'Clang, clang, clang went the trolley' in 1900, so they used the music of her time to understand characters and places of another time. Sure, we've taken that notion further and we've toyed with it a bit, but that is where it has come from."

Calling *Moulin Rouge* a "post-modern *La Traviata*," Luhrmann says it conforms to a fundamental rule of musicals and operas that the audience knows the story's outcome before it begins.

"The resonance and the complexity is found in the execution, not in the revelation of plot," he says. "This is how you get the audience to clap and make noise, because they're going, 'Well, I know

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Mister Marcus

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ions do count! Judging from the feedback I've been getting from many of them, they would not trade the experience they had as IML 2001 contestants for all the money in the world.

As for the biggest tramp/pig at IML — I would say it was a former SF leather title holder who was soliciting the keys to the rooms that people were checking out of on Monday morning — all this whilst his "significant other" was in their own room snoring blissfully. No names in the interest of sparing "the significant other" from embarrassment for being married to such a pig!

The biggest bombshell of the weekend was that Patti Brown, the six-year big kahuna of Chicago's world-famous Cell Block, announced his resignation to the staff. Patti will move to Washington, DC to become the general manager of the Leather Rack, the premiere leather store in the nation's capital. Thanks Patti for a wonderful stint at the Cell Block and good luck in your new pursuit. I am sure Roger and David and the entire staff of the Cell Block will miss you!



Pantheon of Pulchritude: A dozen of the 20 finalists at International Mr. Leather 2001 raised their arms in tribute to the audience, giving the judges a final look. The audience roared its approval.

Funds for Houston

Last Saturday night, our Mr. SF Leather Houston Davenport and Chris Ross — Mr. Daddy's Leather and in the top 20 at IML — were feted with a few bottles of bubbly at the Powerhouse. The faithful attended. It appears that since IML winner Stefan Mueller lives in Germany, he will not be able to attend a whole lot of events in the U.S., so representation at functions in the U.S. will be the job of first runner-up Darryl Moyers and second runner-up Houston Davenport.

Be advised: Concerned citizens

in San Francisco will band together to raise travel fund money for Houston. Stay tuned.

Leather Pride SF

The Power of Leather will be in evidence at our Pride Parade this year, via the SF Leather Contingent. If you plan to participate, be reminded that our assembly location is Area "G" on Beale St. between Market & Mission. Motorcyclists enter at Gate #3 (same location). For more info, email: sfthrpride@worldnet.att.net. And check out the website at: www.hotboots.com/pride.html. ▼

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BAR TALK



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PARTING GLANCES

~Glen Park Bart 4/26~
7:30 pm. You, handsome 30s AM, standing across the street. Me: 40s GWM, short blond hair, crossing street with friend. You held my admiring gaze. Can we meet? ☎ 71248

Th 4/26 SFAF Dinner, Ft Mason Met in bathroom, talked about "20". You: beautiful Asian man at friend's table. Me: White man trying his tie. Coffee? Dinner? ☎ 71249

Sat 4/28, "Red Grill" 8'ish
Saw you in the lounge, then dining room, me at corner table with 2 friends. Couldn't take my eyes off you. Would love to make you smile again. ☎ 71268

"Castro Community T-Shirt"
Badlands Fri. 4/27, AM in white sleeveless t-shirt wanted to talk. Was it wishful thinking, or did you want to talk to me too? I'm what you've been wanting. ☎ 71269

5/6 Starbucks@ Church & Market 11:30am, we were buying drinks, too shy to talk. You, cute Asian with silver ring on right hand. Me: White with yellow t-shirt, exchanged glances even after I left. Call. ☎ 71270

•Jeremy, Sunday April 29~
Enjoyed talking with you at "Pasta Pomodoro". I was too shy to ask for your number. Give me a second chance? ☎ 71271

Ned! ~Sundance Saloon~ May 6th
Hello Ned, tried to build-up enough courage to ask you to dance but you left early. Very goodlooking, masculine, nice guy here. Would love to hear from you. ☎ 71272

•Jason M. ~From Art C.~
Sorry, I missed you but thanks for stopping by Weds. 4/25. You were cut off before you left your ph#. Please try again. Love to see you and catch-up. ☎ 71273

~Steamworks Sun 5-6~
You tall Asian, glasses. Me tad shorter, close cropped hair, mustache. Kissed in back. I was oral. Smiled at each other later. Can we do it again? ☎ 71301

N Judah @ Church Weekends 8am
You: AM departing train, Me: WM brown hair & glasses embarking train. We often smile & wave. Would you like to meet for coffee? ☎ 71302

Commonwealth Club- 'Alexander'
The Great on 5/17. You admired my turquoise ring and I admired you. Had a nice talk and would like to talk more w/ dinner or movie. ☎ 71320

N Judah @ Church St. Weekdays 8am
You: am departing train, Me: WM brown hair & glasses embarking train. We used to smile & wave often. Would like to meet sometime? ☎ 71321

Dolores Prk & Bay To Breakers!
2 days in a row, I couldn't take my eyes off you! You- yellow shorts (5/19) then red shorts 5/20). Me- tall, glasses, baseball cap. Let's finally talk. ☎ 71322

Edge-Mem Day Sun-2 Men W/Go-Ts
Me: Goatee/blue eyes. I followed you to your car; you tooted and drove off; you should have stopped. Somebody should have said something. Call! ☎ 71336

•Rockridge, Friday, May 25~
Our eyes met several times outside Market Hall. You: Asian man, table alone, lap top. Me: White man, chair (no table). Too shy to stop and talk. Can we meet? ☎ 71337

~5/26-Chevy's 7:00pm~
You shaved head, tattoos, and leather coat. You were with two friends. We gray hair and beard glasses, with friend at counter. Too stupid to speak. Please call me. ☎ 71338

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Regular Guy Seeks Buddy+More!
Masculine WPM outside the scene, tall fit goodlooking, 51, active outdoor and varied indoor interests seeks similar 45-55 for serious relationship. Must be HIV neg. N/S, N/D. ☎ 71250

•Hairy Top~
G/B! WM wanted. Me: 150# hairless GWM mid 40, 7" cut, into most interest. Great for fuck buddy. ☎ 71251

HIV+GBM SKS GWM Dominant Top
6ft 175, 38 masculine but submissive. Prefer affectionate small build. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 71252

"Muscular Monogamous Man!"
Into TV, pop culture, dancing, cooking, exercise, tit play/body worship; seeks muscular GM for S.F. dates. I'm Asian, young 51, 5'7", 150#, HIV-neg. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 71253

~That Caribbean Touch!~
Spanish man raised in the Spanish Caribbean seeks other GM for sex and fun. I am a top, 5'8", 155#, well endowed, salt and pepper hair, into yoga and jogging. Very political progressive avid reader, financially independent, good cook and love to travel. Into GWM as well as Latin Americans and Europeans. HIV+, but very HIV+ sensitive. ☎ 71274

•Mulatto Guy Intelligent~
Educated, real good looking, seeks guys for a relationship for fun and good times. ☎ 71275

VGL Latino "Boy" ISO Hot "Daddy!"
Me: 5'7", 135#, HIV+, goatee, fun and romantic. You: GWM, 40-55, goodlooking, financially secure. Dad type ISO. Please Call! ☎ 71276

POZ GBM ISO Vers GWM Bottom
"6ft, 180lbs. ISO affectionate/ submissive GWM/GLM. Prefer slim, short, small build and smooth." ☎ 71277

"Goodlooking Masculine Rugged!"
Man looking for another for deep friendship and romance. I am good hearted, intelligent, N/S, N/D, bottom. I like rugged hairy tops with good hearts and nice cock. ☎ 71278

~Suck Buddy~
Uncut GWM 5'-10", 165#, 7", large balls, HIV-, disease free, non smoker, ISO regular suck buddy. White, Latino, Asian, North Bay a plus. ☎ 71279

GWM Seeks Goodlooking Male For...
Friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 41, slim trim and fit. Like the outdoors, quiet, romantic evenings at home, loving one another and building a life together. "Let's make it happen!" ☎ 71280

•Friends, Friends, Friends, Help!~
Partner & friends have ahh passed. Looking for buddies to do things with. Can be into many different things. Need someone to share time with. ☎ 71281

"Italian Guys I Am Looking!"
For Italian men who are hung or good looking or just plain Italian guys for sex, fun or relationship. ☎ 71282

•Long Big Clean & Uncut~
Available for White butt. Only. I'm 36yrs old. 5'7", long brown hair, lean, sexy and horny. All calls will be returned. ☎ 71303

"Ideal Match..."
For Scorpio are Pisces. GWM late 40, well educated, honest, kind, pscs, bottom is waiting for you, scorp. Let's make our life happiest in the world; cause LOVE is EVERYTHING!! ☎ 71304

•Live In Europe~
With attractive, masculine professional. You are younger, trim, fun loving guy looking for adventure and hot times. ☎ 71305

34 White Bottom ISO Darkest Top 5'11", 195. Very muscular and masculine seeking top who likes to be very dominant. Role playing etc is a big plus! ☎ 71306

"Young Bay!"
You: Over 60, real gentleman, with tender fingers. Me: young, shy boy, like massage, sport, history. ☎ 71307

Palo Alto GAM 45 5'11" 185 36w
ISO a friend under 46 with average cock for me to suck who recid... on a reg basis. Have car will come to you. ☎ 71308

I'm 29yrs. "Latino!"
29w, 31l, 145wt, 5'7"ht. HIV+. You btwn 25-45 hairy chest & legs in good shape and well off. ☎ 71309

~~~~~Cancer Survivor!~~~~~  
36, 6', 180, br/rb attractive, well-adjusted, colon cancer surviving (ileostomy), orally fixated gym going GWM with great attitude for life. Seek attractive, well-adjusted WM for dating. ☎ 71310

"I Want You The Right Way!!!"  
GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips +-. ☎ 71311

ISO HIV+ & Latine Brother 38yr  
175# 6'2" looking for skinny White boy for rough housing & tenderness. No drugs, smoke ok. ☎ 71323

6'4" Very Attractive Thin Model  
Boy ISO smilin. Attractive. Stylish. Straight Acting boys. 18-25. Me, HIV- fun, Artist, straight acting, hung. Looking for versatile/ bottom for some fun. I like White boys. No loco's. ☎ 71324

~Life Is A Banquet~  
GBM HIV- lean masc toned, eager to explore life, you GM 25-40 relationship inclined. Likes music, gym, conversation, theatre, deep kissing, versatile. I'm no chicken but this bird is still succulent. Let the feast begin. ☎ 71325

HIV+ Bottom Seeks SF Top  
52, 5'6", 140 with s/b, brn eyes. Honest, grounded w/sense of humor about life. Open to any relationship. Looking for good communicator. Prefer 40-58 taller HIV+ in-shape. ☎ 71326

~I'm Seeking Gigantic Nipples!~  
Muscar 42 seeks a small brn eyes, lar guy with huge protruding nipples to service on a regular basis. I know how to please. Pleas be serious. "No Games!" ☎ 71339

"Attention John!" ~Asian  
You responded my ad #71279, "Suck Buddy" and the Bar system cut your message off before you could give me your phone number. Call again. ☎ 71340

•Healthy HIV+ Seeks Same~  
GWM, 39, 5'11", 165#, masculine, in shape seeks non-smoking slim/fit younger guy. I enjoy reading, movies, theatre, hiking, kayaking, Rem, Sting, Chili Peppers. "You...?" ☎ 71341

\*\*\*\*Affectionate Older Men\*\*\*\*  
WLM 45, 6'160lbs. ISO men over 50 who enjoy lots of holding, kissing and oral pleasure! Bearded, mustache, non-buffed, rustic-looks, liberal A+. Smoking, lt. drink ok but no drugs or gay scene. ☎ 71342

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

Seeking Mature Man Of Color!  
SWM, 38, 5'7", 140, brn/blu, cute, boyish, witty, charming, educated, very oral, bottom but also versatile. Uncut, HIV-. For safe sexual fun. Older+, uncut+, Black+, Latin+. ☎ 71254

Pete Is Coming & NDS 2b Rode!  
Horny, hunky Italian, formerly of Sanchez Street & now residing in Orlando, will be visiting SF may 1st thru 18th. Total btm, nds to get screwed-a lot. Don't miss it. ☎ 71255

Masculine, Hairy, Hung!  
HIV- 5-9, blue eyes, salt pepper hair, 61 in great shape. Into arts, exercise, professional, Santa Cruz, dating or picture exchange for preview ok. ☎ 71256

GWM Seeks Man Of Color Top!  
For friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 46, blonde, HIV+, slim. Like outdoors, nature, mutual massage, the arts, music. Please call. ☎ 71257

~Foreskin Lover!~  
GWM 50yo loves to give head to uncut men any age race, cut cock ok if over 8". Long slow and deep. Lay back and relax, No games. ☎ 71258

"I Suck Asian Cock!"  
Attractive White boy, early 30's, loves uncut Asian cock. If you're Asian, 20-30's, and have a nice uncut cock, I'll suck you off. You can feed it all to me! ☎ 71259

# BAR TALK

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**\*Weightlifting Nude\***

Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71260

**Santa Rosa, S.F. On Wknds**  
48-5'9"-145#, gymtuned, tan, handsome & hot, stable, sincere. Spiritual. Enjoy hot tub, massage, & hot sex- seeks in shape guys only. ☎ 71261

**Balls, Balls, Balls...**

Very Bi curious goodlooking w/50 to kiss, fondle, lick, suck, loose low hangers mutual w/o, maybe more a/w any age/weight. ☎ 71262

**"Naughty Butt Nice!"**

Me: goodlooking, 5'8", 155#, smooth, 48yo. Hot bottom needs spanking, probing, & discipline. You: trim daddy, or other, who enjoys a sub-boy. ☎ 71263

**"ISO Tit Pigs!!!!"**

Hungry to suck on my big beaut nips, masculine, dominant dad 52yo solid tight muscular bod. Shaved head, tats, defined hairy chest w big nips. Also ISO men who are huge, not just big tits. ☎ 71283

**Milkman Lookin For Good Gumbo!**  
If you're a "toothless tiger" and can deep-throat a big head while "gummin' the base of a thick shaft, I'm your man. 6', 170, 43, laid-back man. Long chew sessions a real turn-on! ☎ 71284

**"AI" - SF, 4-22-01**

AI of SF. You responded to my ad #71331. "Older Black Men" on 4/22. Your phone number was incomplete. Please call again. ☎ 71285

**Hairy Top GBI WM Wanted!**

Me: 150# slim hairless GWM mid 40 7" cut into butt, dick. Play open to most role clothing WS & other kink. ☎ 71286

**Wanted: "Hung Guys!"**

I am looking for guys who are hung "9" inches or larger for a fun time with me. I am hung "9" so give me a call. ☎ 71287

**\*Striptease: Lost Art?**

SF connoisseur, seeks only cut Caucasian or Hispanic masculine star, 20-32, mid-twenties preferred. Impressive face and physique, charisma and presentation skills required. Safe, confidential fun! ☎ 71288

**"Hot, Horny, Asian Into Sex!"**

I'm lots of fun, high energy, 5'7", 129lbs with lean, tanned build. Into exploring different scenes. Slender guys big plus! Age/race not important. ☎ 71289

**Attention Hairy Guys!...**

U turn me on! 42yo. Hot bottom wants to service your needs & make you feel good! HIV- only! Lv msn. ☎ 71290

**Wanted: Hung Men For Servicing**  
Goodlooking White guy 40, 188, with dark brown hair, mustache, smooth body, and blue eyes seeks well endowed men for sucking. Only men between 20-45 need apply. All nationalities welcome. ☎ 71291

**\*Voyeur!**

50's gay couple seeks third to watch. ☎ 71292

**I'm A Butt Banger, 47 And Hung**  
Looking for masculine, experienced men who like it from behind (I use the stop and withdraw method). Over 40 and husky build a plus. East Bay. ☎ 71312

**Feed Your Daddick 4 Smooth Job**  
WM, 45/6/170, baldbuzz, bearded digs orally servin' verbal, booted leather/ uniform daddist w/ thick-dick. In gear, ukiback or fuckface, longslowdeep. HIV- ub2, no drugs. Options: titteglows, gars, reds, spit, cuffs? ☎ 71313

**Bubble Butt Bottom Wanted**  
By WM, 49, 6', 170lbs, top, great shape. Be slim to muscular, like to get rimmed & fucked, between 30-50. Prefer Asian, HIV+ only. No fats or fems. ☎ 71314

**\*Your Personal Cocksucker!\***  
Talented hungry attractive 37yo guy seeks laid back hung 24 to 44yo with slim to medium build to suck off regularly. I'm HIV+ healthy. Serious only please. ☎ 71315

**Touch Stoke Squeeze Shoot**  
Is your favorite part of a massage "getting off"? I specialize in concentrating on your mid-section w/ intense attention to your cock and balls w/ my mouth and hands. Oiled up & keeping you on the edge of cumming 55, clean/healthy ub2. No \$\$. No reciprocation, just relax and enjoy. ☎ 71327

**Stocky, Hefty, Chubby, Fat**  
GBM, 48yo, 5'11", 250lbs. Seeks big men for versatile, uninhibited sexual pleasure. Big, hefty men only. Discretion required. ☎ 71328

**"Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy!"**  
GWM, 42, 180# seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. Please be hairy! ☎ 71329

**"2Big!" - Uncut**

Looking for another relatives for good sex afternoon 7 inches or none-masculine and good shape. ☎ 71346

**\*This Boy Needs Some Lovin!\***

GWM 42, 180#, romantic, uncut, hairy seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Extremely hairy guys please! ☎ 71330

**"Oral Master Seeks Oral Slave!"**

Young looking-acting mid 70's master-daddy seeks a girl's 18-45 HIV-slave or son for ongoing light S&M, B/D safe. No anal scenes. ☎ 71331

**\*Wear A Toolbelt To Work?\***

Tall 28yo guy, seeks goodlooking, in-shape, straight/BI Construction worker, who will let me play with his big tool and show me what he can do with it. ☎ 71332

**Att GWM 50 HIV+ Oralist ISO HRD**  
I kneel down and worship. You watch your desire disappear into my soft, wet darkness. Sensual/Slow. Sensitive nips! ☎ 71343

**\*Mature Handsome Xpert Sucker\***  
Licking, sniffing, deep throat action. Ass ball scotch wiping-drooling. Fuck my stache/ got-mouth! Hairy-musc, 5'7", 160#, 50's. Tan body, hungry mouth-throat! Facial hair daddies A+. ☎ 71344

**\*Play With My Ass!\***

I'm 6'4" 195lbs with 9" cut dick. Enjoy being fucked by small men with big cocks. Latino? Asian? Bring it over! ☎ 71345

**\*Cock And Balls Sucked!\***

You kickback. I will service, even if your cut/hung, thick. Possible we both like it. Could become weekly. Me GWM, healthy, HIV negative. Love to worship cock! ☎ 71347

**\*Just Sex!!\***

Nice SWM, 43/180/6', handsome, in-shape, hairy, br/bc, clean, HIV- Neg, & horny, ISO WM, attractive, clean, hung, & HIV-Neg for blow/rim regularly. My place in SF. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71348

**"Who Are You?"**

"Sexual desire is complicated enough w/out having to be linked to anything else as a condition for phenomenological analysis." Human being seeks same; interested in sex, among other things. ☎ 71350

**\*JO Adventure!\***

Happy, dedicated JO addict seeks same to unabashedly share/explore, prolonged edging far-out fantasizing, and orgasms. Physical contact unnecessary. Toys, any age ok. Extended mind-blowing. ☎ 71351

**"Asian Guys!!"**

Under 50, wanted by trim, fit, HIV+ White build dude age 48, top, safe, sane, smart, 6' 162lbs. You're trim, fit too. ☎ 71352

**Rough-Fuck Boyhole Wanted!!!!**

WM 40 145 HIV+ top. Lean, not beefy, prefer same. Big thick cock, likes hurting holes! You: Fit clean poz small-framed nonhairy total botom 25-45 craving fast frequent deep brutal fucking. ☎ 71349

**FETISHES**

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Work on each others nipple until we explode. All levels of experience. GWM, 38yo, hairy chest seeks similar. ☎ 71264

**"Queer Skinhead Into Aggro"**  
Oi, mate! Queer-skinhead, 5'8", 142, muscled, tattooed, goateed, hairy, ISO mates into Oi!, boots, skintex, Rough Aggro- kicking, stomping, wrestling, boxing, fistfighting, stom, leather. ☎ 71265

**\*Shaved Upper Bodies\***

Tall shaved WHM wishes to video tape large persons of any race or gender who have smooth chests and shaved pits. ☎ 71293

**"Seeking Guy With Piss Load!"**

I'm 6', 155, HIV-neg, early 50's, East Bay, thirsty, hate W/IS tapes and camcorder. ☎ 71294

**\*Seeking Discipline!\***

WM, generous, seeks younger defined strict yet understanding WM for progressive bi-monthly corporal punishment sessions including whipping, humiliation & foot worship. ☎ 71295

**Beat This Man....**

This queer mature pervert requires a beating periodically. Good for younger fit sadist. Please inquire! ☎ 71296

**"Daytime Asshole-Eater!"**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 71297

**\*{Always Thirsty}\***

50yo HIV- piss dad seeks healthy HIV- kids to top w/ full bladder and balls that need regular draining pissy underwear A+, willing to train. ☎ 71298

**Big Men!!**

WLM 45, 6', 160lbs. I'm attracted to very heavyset men who enjoy slow sensual oral pleasure. Gainers, non-exercisers, kissers, cuddlers A+. Not into gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71299

**ISO Experienced Vacuum Pumper!**

Beginner vacuum pumper needs an experienced pumper to be my mentor. Mature caucasian gentleman HIV- 5'9", 150#, 7" cut. ☎ 71353

**COUPLES**

**All Nighter W/2 Waiting For U**  
Attractive GWM 5'11", 185#, 40, top & 5'10", 155#, 31, bottom/vers. I.S.O. versatile, attractive, gay, men 21-35 desiring 9", 7", tight ass, for Explosive Hot Sex, no fems. HIV-preference. ☎ 71266

**"Looking For Three, Four Way Action"**  
If you're a couple looking for another HOT, masculine male who knows how to use his cock, give me a call. I'm 6', 185lbs. GBM, 9". You guys won't be disappointed. Looking to have a good time. Masculine and muscular men only. ☎ 71300

**OTHERS**

**Englishman Seeks Woman!**  
HIV-, University graduate, for marriage of convenience for right woman. ☎ 71267

**\*Bride The Gap!\***  
GF seeks foreign gentleman professional for mutually beneficial arrangement. Honesty, credibility communication Important! ☎ 71334

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**GBM 55 HIV+ Bottom 5'10" 200lbs**

Sks GWM tops into vaseline-on sleaze. Enjoy my oil massage, video, foot-body worship, sucked my butt. Open minded to d-long sessions, undressed by me. ☎ 71316

**"Asshole Rimmer Insatiable"**  
Wanted by WM, 49, 6', top, exc. shape. Be 25-50 old, love to rim for hours, in-shape, no fats. Prefer Black, Asian, HIV+ only, regular basis. ☎ 71317

**Seeks Nipple Pig Wkout Buddy!!**  
I'm 46yr. old aggressive bottom "nipple" bear with nice erect nipples! I'm stocky/ 200# brn/bm, salt & pepper goatee, tats, piercings, smoke! ISO super masc, muscular dominate "bear daddy" nip-pig for serious nipple wkouts & growth in mind!! Smokers A+ please call!! ☎ 71318

**"Spiritually Focused Domination"**  
Consciousness adventures thru bondage, intense sensual stimulation, discipline and/or abasement, guided by tantric yogi Oakland WM 54. Ideally you're fit, smart, complex, capable of commitment. ☎ 71319

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Have a sex orgy, good time, all night long. Looking to meet up with handsome, built well-defined guys who like having group sex with others. You: No attitude or hang-ups. Me: Fine/toned & extremely built, GBM. Please be open minded and non racially impacted. ☎ 71333

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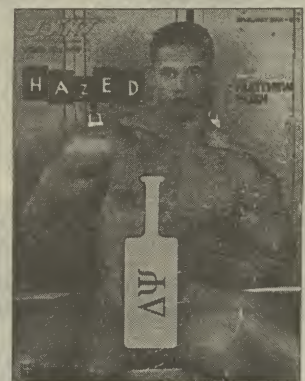
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# Bad girls, bad boys, bad news

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Catholics call it limbo — that place the soul goes that isn't heaven or hell. On TV, we call it summer — that place between the fabulous May finales and the new fall season, where all that's left to maintain viewer interest are a few iffy midseason replacements and a plethora of reruns.

Fortunately, the original reality TV — the news — has been riveting. Too riveting. The nightly news is beginning to look like those creepy Fox specials with lots of pyrotechnics and people dying in hideous ways.

The Middle East, ever the world's tinderbox, is closer to war than it's been in 30 years. The recent round of suicide bombings by the militant (the politically correct news term for terrorist) Islamic group Hamas, including the latest in a crowded nightclub pa-

trized by Russian émigrés, has pushed the already volatile Sharon government in Israel to consider a mini-war to realign the Palestinian Authority and oust Chairman Arafat, according to news sources. Meanwhile, the Bush Administration, chock full of war-mongers like Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell and National Security Advisor and Cold Warrior Condoleezza Rice, has made none of the overtures the previous Administration made to broker a cease fire, let alone a peace proposal.

That a war in the Middle East would be detrimental to the rest of the planet, given weapons capabilities and the anti-American sentiments of many Islamic militants, seems to have escaped the Bush Administration, whose foreign policy doesn't go far beyond taco teas with Mexico.

And speaking of foreign policy, the shoot-up in the royal palace in Nepal was a chilling reminder that monarchies aren't as much fun as they look. The Crown Prince was pissed that his mother, the Queen, didn't like his choice of bride. So he killed her — and his father, the King; his brother and sisters; a few other hangers-on; and finally, himself. As we said, the original reality TV.

Of course, our favorite news story of the week was the monkeyman attacks in New Delhi. A half-man, half-monkey has been seen running through the streets of India attacking people. Two died, one in a fall trying to escape the beast, and another from a heart attack caused by fear that the beast was after her. The best thing about the global village is the news that used to appear only in Rupert Murdoch supermarket publications now gets reported by Peter Jennings and Tom Brokaw. And they have to keep a straight face while they do it.

## Domestic drama

Of course, the media has been having a difficult time keeping a

straight face while reporting the domestic news as well. Between Sen. James Jeffords' defection, which turns the Senate over to the Democrats this week, new Majority Whip Sen. Tom Daschle spending a cozy weekend with renegade Republican and personal thorn-

in-the-side-of-Bush Sen. John McCain, and the bad Bush twins getting picked up yet again for underage drinking, there has been a lot to manage on the domestic front.

We found it difficult to disguise our glee at Jeffords' attack of conscience. We also totally enjoyed seeing Bush's creepy ex-gay honcho Karen Hughes called on the carpet of every morning show, news show and tabloid show to explain how the White House screwed up. Fascinating that she never vacillated one iota from her prepared script, regardless of the questions. The Party line: Jeffords was an extremist. Now that's what we call programming.

Then there are the bad Bush girls. We loved the *NY Daily News* headline, "Jenna and Tonic," almost as much as we liked seeing Barbara Bush on the news dising her son for his bad behavior in his salad days. Quipped Bar, "He's getting some of his own back, now," with a knowing look. Of course we do wonder why Bush hasn't taken the opportunity to suggest underage drinking is a bad thing. Or just suggest to his girls that they are embarrassing Daddy, and that he can do that on his own.

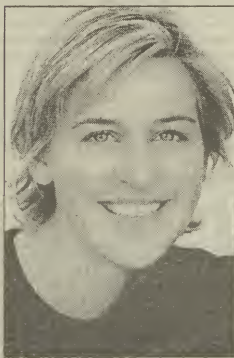
As if this TV weren't riveting enough, there's the FBI show — the Keystone Cops Redux. It would be difficult to top the amazing screw-up in the McVeigh case. McVeigh, previously eager to be executed on live TV, is now appealing his sentence, conviction and even arrest predicated on the "lost files" still dribbling in to his attorneys from the FBI. Even the families of the victims have said in TV interviews they don't blame McVeigh or his attorneys for going back to court, they blame the FBI. It will be a sorry tale if the worst mass murderer in US history is made a martyr by a criminal justice system he has always claimed was corrupt.

If the nonstop news is too much reality TV for you, let us recommend *The Beast*, a docudramatic midseason show premiering on ABC June 13. Starring Elizabeth Mitchell, lesbian lover of

Laura Innes on *ER* this season, the show carries an audience warning: graphic scenes of capital punishment may be too intense for some viewers. We previewed this item. It's one not to miss.

## Working stiffs

We also previewed HBO's new series *Six Feet Under*, created by Academy Award-winning screenwriter and queer-about-town Alan Ball. Now, we do not approve of people paying for TV. We had enough of that from the BBC in London, but this sharp, hysterical, poignant, out-there black comedy about a family running a funeral home after the patriarch has been killed in a freak accident (reaching for a cigarette while driving his new hearse, he's hit by a bus) is definitely worth the price of admission. Starring Peter Krause, Academy Award nominee Rachel Griffiths, Michael C. Hall (as an uptight closeted queer undertaker with a gorgeous black cop for a boyfriend), Lauren Ambrose and Frances Conroy, this is a must-see, not just during summer doldrums but year-round. If you liked Ball's *tour de force American Beauty*, you'll love *Six Feet Under*. Ball has a little perversity for every taste, and the show's strong ensemble cast brings his ironic touch to, uh, life. It's Evelyn Waugh's *The Loved One* as a TV series.



We're sooo over Ellen DeGeneres.

It's too early to comment on Ellen DeGeneres' sitcom, *The Ellen Show* (let's hope the writing is more imaginative than the title), due to air in the fall on CBS, but DeGeneres is talking it up around the tabloid TV circuit this week, as neither she nor we have anything else to do. Ellen says her character will be gay. "I go back home to live with my mother and sister in a small town," she explained. Wasn't this the same plot John Goodman devised for *Normal, Ohio*, which

tanked earlier this year on Fox?

DeGeneres adds her sitcom "won't push the envelope, but will be funny." Which would certainly make a change on both counts from her last sitcom, *Ellen*. Personally, we are soooo over Ellen. Isn't there another lesbian out there we can try out for a season?

Speaking of news hardly worth reporting, what's the frequency, Michael? REM's Michael Stipe has come out of the closet officially (as opposed to denying the rumors for the past decade) and is telling all the TV tabloids (and anyone else who cares, but we are in TV downtime) he's finally comfortable with acknowledging his sexuality. Stipe says he's had a steady boyfriend for three years. Ain't love grand?

Finally, on a sad note, Nkosi Johnson, the 12-year-old South African boy leading a struggle against AIDS first reported on by us last year, has died. Born to a dying mother, Nkosi was adopted by a white South African, Gail Johnson, who provided him with the medications most poor South Africans with HIV/AIDS cannot access. He led the life of a normal boy until he was denied a place in school because of his AIDS. Johnson fought for him to be allowed into school and brought media attention to the issue of children with HIV/AIDS in South Africa. She then opened Nkosi's Haven, a group home for children with AIDS.

Nkosi himself became an activist and last year was the World AIDS Conference keynote speaker. There, small and frail, he told the audience, "We are normal, we are human beings, we can walk, we can talk. We are all the same."

This last year, he traveled and gave speeches in the UK and US, saying it was his last chance to fight, his last year to live. He told ABC's Jim Wooten, "I'm not going to give up. I've got a lot of work to do for the others — mothers and children out there."

Nkosi spawned a whole new generation of activist — all children with HIV/AIDS. Wooten, a craggy veteran who has covered many wars and scenes of carnage, has reported over the past year on a different kind of war, the one waged by this sweet and special child. Wooten's reporting has been incredibly moving.

Unfortunately, AIDS killed Nkosi, as it has so many others. But not before he reminded those who complacently believe AIDS is over that the epidemic is as devastating as ever. Via TV, he let us know before he died that we have much work left to do. ▼

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## Baz Luhrmann

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the plot," but when the plot is told through "Like a Virgin," they go, "Hey, is this happening?"

## Crossdress for success

Among the movie's most entertaining characters is Toulouse-Lautrec, with John Leguizamo playing the lisping, crossdressing artist.

"When I was in Paris doing research, I went to the Moulin Rouge to see Latoya Jackson wrestle a snake. She wasn't playing that night, so I never got to see that, but I was reminded in that moment of Lautrec," Luhrmann says. "He was the Andy Warhol of the 1890s. He was the first in Pop Art, so he had to play some role. In

terms of classical form, he is the sad clown. But it is factual that Toulouse-Lautrec did speak like Daffy Duck on speed, that he was a drug addict, and that he loved red-headed women by vicariously forming relationships with good-looking young men and living through them."

As for his own sexuality, Luhrmann is married to his production and costume designer Catherine Martin, but is very gay-friendly and is a big fan of Sydney's annual gay Mardi Gras celebration.

Asked about the recent publicity surrounding the break-up of Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, Luhrmann says he thinks it has helped the buzz for the movie.

"It could've hurt it maybe in some way, and there was a time when she could've retreated from

the spotlight, and I was ready to go out there and just carry the ball myself," he says. "But she's a gutsy person, she just went, like, 'Oh, the show must go on.' Is this a role of a lifetime? I think so — she sings, she dances, she dies. I think she has said many times that it's a good thing for her. She's back on her horse, riding again."

Ever the perfectionist, Luhrmann says there are things about the movie he would change.

"None of my films are more than about 50 percent of what I want them to be," he laughs. "I could re-shoot the whole thing again. But it's like making a chair or something — it's not right, but it technically works. That's the best we can do. If we all had endless time and money, we'd all be Michelangelo and we'd get the Sistine done at some point." ▼



## Keep Singing

◀ page 42

body," explained Patsy.

"No, there never has been," Eloise agreed.

"Another parallel with us besides our sons was our husbands," Patsy noted. "They were very strong men. But if some Mr. Wonderful walked up to me, it'd be all right. But so far it hasn't happened."

Until that moment, the gals are happy going around fighting bigotry and supporting other moms who have also lost their children to AIDS.

"Life is very full," Eloise smiled, although it took her a while to find the joy within herself after her Mark died. "When you're down in your depths, you think you're never going to laugh again. Never smile again. That life will never be worth living again. But you just have to climb out."

"Tragedy is never all black," Patsy expanded. "It's not all white. It's not, otherwise it wouldn't be human. If there's anything, we're

all human. You know, this book was a labor of love." One that she and Eloise hope will comfort and change minds.

"Society when it comes to homophobia is better than it was 10 years ago, when Mark died," Eloise considered. "We have a long way to go, to be sure, but I think that a lot of things have happened to open people's minds and to open the culture."

"The hatred is still there," Patsy cautioned. "The jokes are still there. The raised eyebrows are still there. The snickers are still there. This is the last acceptable prejudice."

"But it's ebbing," Eloise insisted. "The process is incremental. It takes lots of work to kill a prejudice. We're just a part of that work."

"But we are a part of it," Patsy smiled. "We absolutely are." ▼

**Patsy Clarke & Eloise Vaughn read from *Keep Singing* on Friday, 6/15, 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 2352 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Info: call (510) 644-0861.**

## Black Narcissus

◀ page 45

Byron), who abuses the natives as she tries to deal with her growing insanity, jealousy of her superior, and lust for Mr. Dean.

Episodic and vignettish rather than a linear narrative, the film includes notable comic relief in the form of a toothless hag (May Hallatt) who caretakes the palace and screeches her longing for the days when it was a warehouse. There's also a pointless romance between Jean Simmons, as a vampish local girl turned out by her family for being too willful, and Sabu, as a foppish young general who begs the nuns for lessons in physics and math. Simmons has one of the film's most provocative, and censor-defying, sequences in a lewd dance through the palace. Simmons has another sexy moment when she's on her knees in front of Sabu's crotch, suggesting she's ready to chow down. As diverting as these detours are, they quickly pale beside the driving force of the drama, the conflict between an increasingly aggressive and unhinged Sister Ruth, representing civilization sundered by contact with a pagan otherworld; and Sister Clodagh, who stands for righteousness and piety at all cost, even as she finds herself, like Sister Ruth, aroused by the hunky, hairy-chested Mr. Dean.

While Kerr often gave remarkable performances, here she's adequate at best, overshadowed by Kathleen Byron's Sister Ruth. Byron's commanding presence indeed dominates the film as she gradually but perceptibly unravels in the film's dreamy setting. One of her most intense scenes is also one of the simplest: Sister Ruth applying lipstick. This prosaic event, shot in choker close-up and overripe color, powerfully signifies her final parting with her pious life, and in fact signals the end for the nuns' tenure. Powell is at his most imaginative in the scenes with this dynamic psycho. He lingers on close-ups of her face, one of the most beautiful and evocative in British cinema, tracking her descent into madness sometimes with uncomfortably close shots of her eyes. Her manic movements and crazed visage give *Black Narcissus* the feel of a horror film as she races wraithlike through the dark, wind-whipped rooms of the palace, or appears suddenly in a room. Attentive viewers will note the film's resem-

blance to another quasi-horror classic, *Vertigo*, in the crazed, climactic fight between Sister Ruth and Sister Clodagh at the bell.

## Eye candy

Visual purists will find much to delight the eye in *Black Narcissus*. In the *Painting with Light* documentary, cinematographer Jack Cardiff (who won an Oscar for his work on the film and supervised this transfer) lists Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Van Gogh as influences. The first shot of the film could be excised and convincingly offered as a newly discovered Vermeer.

Martin Scorsese, whose commentary (along with the late director's) is included on the DVD, was among many future filmmakers inspired by the film. Watching it, he says, was "like being bathed in color." This feeling of being immersed in a dreamworld is aided immeasurably by Peter Ellenshaw's superb matte paintings of the valleys and vistas of an imaginary Himalayas.

Equally challenging is the film's melding of music and movement. This is most ambitious in the climactic sequence, a 12-minute *tour de force* in which the movements of the embattled Sisters are matched to a musical sequence written by Brian Easdale. Few directors outside the experimental realm would attempt such a thing, and it has an undeniable power. On the other hand, some viewers will be more annoyed than moved by the haunted-house operatic chorus that arises throughout this sequence to accompany Ruth on her lethal trek. While the imagery here remains unforgettable — Kathleen Byron's sudden appearance as a violent psychopath, framed in a dark doorway, is genuinely chilling — the music sometimes slides into bathos.

Powell's heavy attention to the formal aspects of the film may have distracted him from the creaky plot, unnecessary subplots, and sometimes mediocre, soap-operaish acting. Kerr's reaction to Sister Ruth plummeting over the cliff is especially unwelcome in this regard. She gives a wide-eyed, silent-movie-style look of terror, complete with hand across her mouth, a reaction unworthy of all that's gone before. It's hard to imagine Powell not working in greater depth with an actress of Kerr's caliber. The fact that he didn't keep *Black Narcissus* just shy of the masterpiece status so often claimed for it. ▼

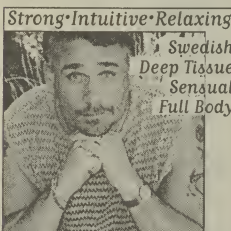
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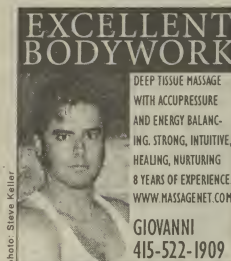
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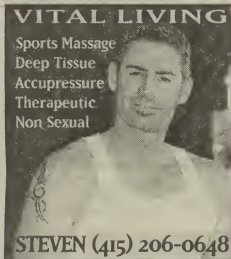
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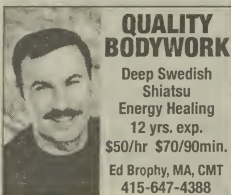
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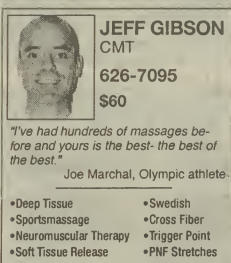


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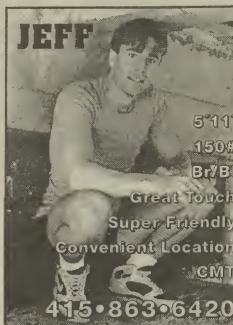
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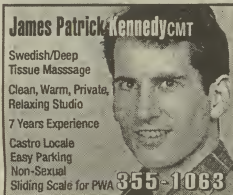


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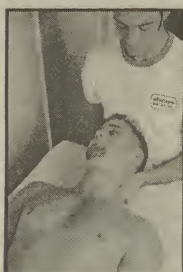
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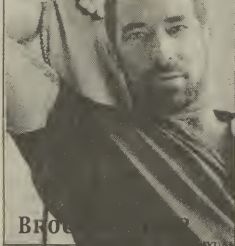
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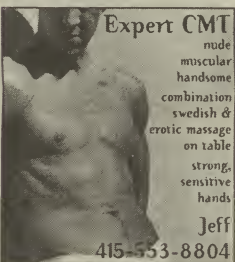
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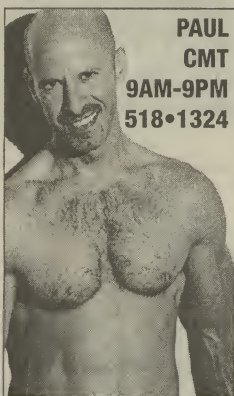
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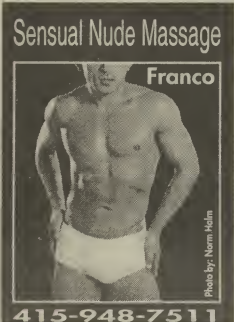
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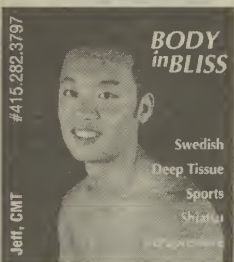
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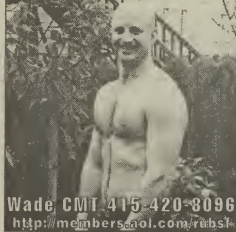
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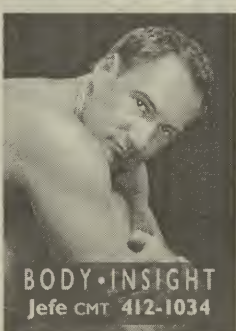
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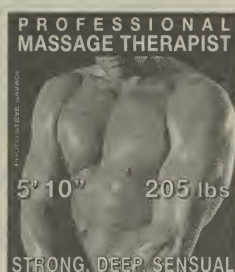
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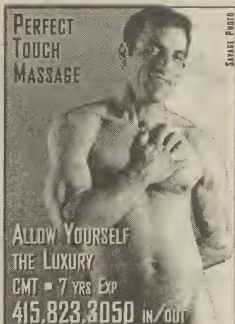
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## DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
BOLD double price  
X-BOLD triple price

## PAYMENT

☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ American Express  
Minimum \$10 charge.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL WITH  
PAYMENT TO:  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
SF, CA 94103  
OR FAX TO:  
415.861.8144  
OR E-MAIL:  
baradv@aol.com



PEOPLE

**WANTED!**  
**BAY AREA MEN**

- Live Talk
- Meet Ads
- Voice Mail

24 Hours  
 \$2.00  
 976-7500

**Free**  
 (415) 981-8123

Always free online [www.badboys.com](http://www.badboys.com)

**1-ON-1 LIVE**

**CLUB STUB**

National Group Orgy...  
 "If you're a stud you're already a member"

**1-206-496-MEET**

CALL THE RAP LINE TODAY  
 GROOVE WITH  
 FUNNY GUYS AND FERRY MEN  
**1-206-496-TALK**

INTERNATIONAL MEN-HOT AND NOW  
**011-678-76995**

**3-somes & More!**

Find a group or start  
 your own **TODAY** on the  
**CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTIONS**

**LISTEN & RECORD TO PERSONAL ADS!**  
 Call 415-247-2000 Use Access code 1778

**Tall, Dark & Huge!**  
 Connect with **HOT LOCAL MEN!**  
 TONIGHT on Club Voice-MALE!  
 Browse/Match/Chat! 18+  
**Call 415-247-5555**  
 Use Access Code 1348

**SPANKING PARTY**  
 Friday June 8  
 9:00 to 2:00  
 926 Natoma  
 Btwn 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Sts  
 sponsored by  
 Man's Hand Films

Body Trim & Shave \* Castro Area  
 Location. Call 4 apptmt \* 626-1168.

**WANTED:** Vintage gay/straight  
 photo erotic. Edwardian, 40's to 60's  
 Cash paid! Bob (415) 777-5911

**SELL US YOUR PORN!**  
 CASH paid for magazines, videos and  
 photos. Turn your STASH into  
 CASH! Call Steve or Patrick at 415-  
 621-1188 Mon. to Fri. 10:30AM  
 to 5:30PM

[www.handsontouch.org](http://www.handsontouch.org)  
**COCK REFLEXOLOGY**  
 Exotic Massage 75 min., \$60  
 (415) 255-1164 • Spawn

BJ 4 20-23yo. Pgr 415-280-9629

Old Fashion Bare Ass Spanking  
 over Daddy's Knee • (415) 864-2766

Houseboy Wntd: Take this Dadik!  
 Need tite jok w/sweaty Tits &  
 Pits: 24 hrs. 510-548-0842


**UNWANTED HAIR REMOVAL**  
 Whole/hole body or parts! \$25.pg/vm  
 415-210-1793. • Jeff

XXX WEB

**FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP!**

**11,000+ MEN SERVED DAILY**

**m4m4sex.com**



**Hint: We don't sell  
 suntan  
 lotion.**

View our hot  
 video online  
 or buy  
 tapes and DVDs

[www.sffetishfactory.com](http://www.sffetishfactory.com)

Hot online?  
 state 21+ for FREE brochure  
**415-674-5925**

**XTREMECOCK.COM**  
 Genital Freaks on Video! Bareback,  
 Cum-Eating, and more!!!



**PRIDE**

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT!**

Reserve advertising space **NOW**  
 for the 2001 Pride Issue of the

**BAY AREA REPORTER**

Reserve early...

|              |                   |           |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Display Ads: | Friday, June 8th  | @ 5:00pm  |
| Line Ads:    | Monday, June 18th | @ 12:00pm |
| Inserts:     | Friday, June 8th  | @ 5:00pm  |

Issue date: Thursday, June 21  
 Pride Parade & Celebration: Sunday, June 24th

Call for rates **415.861.5019**  
 or email [BARadv@aol.com](mailto:BARadv@aol.com)



# COME CELEBRATE GAY PRIDE IN THE SOUTH BAY

Bud Light Presents

## San Jose Gay Pride Parade & Festival

THIS WEEKEND



Evelyn  
Champayne  
King

"Shame"

RuPaul  
"Supermodel"

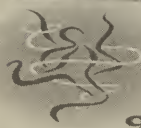
Amber  
"Sexual"

Comedian  
Judy  
Tenuta

### Stronger. Louder PROUDER

PROMOTING ACCEPTANCE • DEMANDING EQUALITY

**SATURDAY June 9** noon - 5pm **Discovery Meadow**



**Free Community Day in the Park**  
Best in Local Entertainment  
Activities for the Entire family

**SUNDAY June 10**

**9:30am 26th Annual Parade**  
Market Street between Santa Clara & Park

**11:00am Gay Pride Festival** Discovery Meadow

Headliner Entertainment, Country Western Dance Area, Leather Alley



gus presents

**The Watergarden Club Dance Tent**

Featuring Top DJ's Including **Mijangos** (Mexico)

Performing Live

**Janice Robinson** "I'm a Dreamer" & **Thea Austin** "Rhythm is a Dancer"

### Other Pride Events

**San Jose Kickoff Party**  
Thursday, June 7  
Foxtail Bar, San Jose  
(408) 278-5563

**Official Pink Party**  
Saturday, June 9  
Macs Club & Waves Club  
39 Post Street, San Jose  
[www.sjgaypride.com](http://www.sjgaypride.com)

Tix \$8 Advance \$10 at the Door / Advanced tickets available through [tickets.com](http://tickets.com) or at Nob Hill Grocery Stores

Volunteers Needed (408) 278-5563 or [www.sjgaypride.com](http://www.sjgaypride.com)

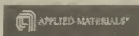
Check out [www.sjgaypride.com](http://www.sjgaypride.com) for complete details



Watergarden



odyssey



**SAN JOSE**  
Stay Downtown and  
Celebrate All Weekend  
For Hotel Reservations  
1-888-SAN JOSE

## NEXT WEEKEND

# COME RODEO WITH US

Golden State Gay Rodeo Association Bay Area Chapter

10TH ANNUAL

SAN JOSE

RODEO

& FESTIVAL

June 15•16•17•2001



**RODEO HOTLINE**  
(415)561-9228  
[WWW.GSGRA.ORG/BAC](http://WWW.GSGRA.ORG/BAC)



instinct  
MAGAZINE



**HYATT**  
REGENCY  
SAN JOSE AIRPORT